



# BOROUGH NEEDS 10,000 HOMES

Report by Richard Guttridge

**TEN thousand new affordable homes need to be built in Dudley over the next 13 years to solve the borough's current housing difficulties.**

Council bosses said they were struggling to deal with the huge demand for social housing as there are so many people who cannot afford to buy or rent their own home on the private market.

The authority has committed to a £40 million scheme to build 350 homes over the next three years but that will barely create a dent on the waiting list, according to the council's figures.

Experts have calculated that 748 affordable homes would have to be built each year for the next 13 years – which would bring the total to 9,724.

With most housing developments only around 20 per cent of new properties are in the 'affordable' bracket, which does not favour the council's prospects of shortening the housing queue as those who can't afford to buy their own home are turning to the council instead.

## Impact

Young single people are finding it particularly difficult to get on the housing ladder, the report said, with many having to remain at home with their parents.

It said: "The low average earnings in the borough impacts on the range of housing options that are available for people to resolve their own housing needs."

"We are becoming increasingly aware that younger single people, when offered accommodation, are having to consider very carefully if they can afford to take on a tenancy."

The report also said the Government's controversial spare bedroom subsidy, which has been dubbed the 'bedroom tax', has had an impact.

"Some of the social housing properties that we offer young people have two bedrooms. This can put them under financial pressure if they lose their employment and need to claim welfare benefits, as they would be subject to the removal of the under-occupation subsidy."

"There is a large unmet demand for one bedroom social rented housing on our housing waiting list."

Dudley councillor Ken Finch said sky-high deposits for new homes meant many young couples are choosing to seek council housing instead.

He said: "Deposits are coming to £20,000, which is not affordable. The situation is getting worse. These developers building a percentage of affordable homes – it's not enough."

"They have a small percentage of affordable homes and these developers go for the £200,000 ones."

## SHELL CORNER SHOCKED BY STATE OF SHOPS



Councillor Stuart Henley at Shell Corner, Halesowen, which he says is badly in need of investment to promote businesses

SHOPOWNERS could be forced to carry out work on their premises following claims they are rundown.

Councillor Stuart Henley said a row of shops on Shell Corner in Halesowen was badly in need of investment. However, traders in the area have hit back insisting that the area has seen improvements.

Councillor Henley said owners of the businesses would be approached about making improvements and warned anyone who refuses that they could be forced into action anyway. He said: "There is a number of premises in

the Shell Corner area that are absolute eyesores and a number of other shop and business owners are not happy with these visual blights that are dragging down the area."

"The issue needs to be addressed as a matter of urgency, as we do not want to see other businesses leaving the area. We need to be attracting further investment. Regeneration has gone on in main town centres but smaller shopping areas have been left out."

He added that shop owners would be given a 'reasonable time period' to complete the works and, regarding those who don't com-

ply, officers would look at 'whether formal enforcement action is warranted'.

Owner of Sandwell Cycles, Peter Wilson, said: "There is no issue with the area. Yes, it could do with sprucing up a bit but otherwise there are good people here who work hard."

"The problems could be with the landlords and their high rents, as they offer no incentive for new trade to come."

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, regeneration boss at Dudley Council, confirmed businesses had been contacted about helping to give the shopping area 'a vibrant feel'.

## FOOTBALL

### £800k all-weather pitch gets funding

AN all-weather football pitch costing almost £1 million will be created in the latest bid to boost numbers playing sports in Dudley. Hillcrest Community College, in Netherton, is submitting a bid for a floodlit sports pitch and pavilion at its Simms Lane site. It comes after the Football Association identified the need for better sports pitches in the borough.

The project will cost around £960,000 with £800,000 being funded by a grant from grassroots sports body, the Football Foundation, and £160,000 from the school. Work could start in the summer.

## POLITICS

### Defiant Tory MP is backing Brexit

DEFIANT Dudley South Conservative MP Mike Wood has pledged to campaign for 'Brexit' – Britain's exit from the European Union – while all other MPs across Dudley borough are in favour of Britain staying in the EU.

The Tory backbencher has come out in favour of pulling out of the union. Fellow Conservatives Stourbridge MP Margot James and Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris, and Dudley North Labour MP Ian Austin, have confirmed they will vote to stay in.

## LOTTERY

### The cheques are in the postcode

TWO neighbours from Kingswinford have each scooped £25,000 in the People's Postcode Lottery.

Thanks to their lucky postcode, DY6 8DN, Andrew Smith and Karen Salmon are now £25,000 better off.

Mr Smith, a shift manager for Cadbury, was at home when People's Postcode Lottery ambassador Judie McCourt stopped by to present him with his cheque. The 46-year-old said this will hopefully fund a family holiday to Florida in 2017.

Mother-of-three Mrs Salmon, 57, also scooped £25,000, and said she has also earmarked the cash for a holiday.

## INSIDE

### READY FOR HEART RUN



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# Guilty plea over road death of father



David Hinton, father-of-eight

A POSTMAN from Dudley has admitted causing the death of a father-of-eight by careless driving last summer.

Sajid Hussain, aged 36, from Black-acre Road, was at the wheel of a red Volkswagen Polo that struck David Hinton who had been helping his young children get into his green Peugeot 206 on a Dudley street.

The 47-year-old was tended to by passers-by until paramedics reached the scene in Oakham Road, Dudley, near to its junction with Tansley Hill Road on June 20 last year.

Mr Hinton died in hospital the following day. His children and 34-year-old wife were treated for minor injuries and shock.

Hussain pleaded guilty when he appeared at Wolverhampton Crown Court last week and he was remanded on conditional bail until March 11.

At that hearing it is anticipated that he will be sentenced after details of the case have been outlined.

Judge John Wait told Hussain last week: "This is a tragic case and I will adjourn the hearing so that you can

have the benefit of a pre-sentence report. This does not offer any indication as to what the ultimate sentence will be. It may well involve custody."

Pc Stuart Allen, from West Midlands Police, said after the incident: "Mr Hinton's family have been left devastated by their loss."

Meanwhile, Dudley Council launched an investigation after the accident on whether road safety measures should be brought in for that stretch of highway.

# Firm fined after 40,000 phone calls in 24 hours

A FIRM based in Dudley, which made almost 40,000 nuisance phone calls in 24 hours, has been fined £70,000.

Direct Security Marketing Ltd made 39,214 automated calls in just one day in a bid to sell burglar alarms.

Of these, 9,775 were made between 1am and 6am and many of those dialled were elderly. The calls to people across the West Midlands, made from a withheld number, and were received early on August 24, 2015, inviting residents to buy a security system.

One of those called in the middle of the night was an 84-year-old woman who had been burgled twice in the past 18 months. She tripped in her anxiety to reach the phone and fell and badly twisted her leg.

Following an investigation, the firm based at Queens Cross, High Street, Dudley, was fined £70,000 by the Information Commissioner's Office after being found in breach of the Data Protection Act.

## Distressed

Andy Curry, the ICO's group enforcement manager, said: "Elderly people were among those who were left distressed after being woken up in the night by the automated calls. It's natural when the phone rings in the early hours to fear it's bad news and perhaps a relative is seriously ill, and that's what people who received these calls told us they thought."

"Automated calls at any time can leave people feeling unsettled but to receive a call trying to sell you a burglar alarm in the middle of the night must have been very frightening."

The ICO began an investigation into the company after receiving complaints.

Mr Curry said: "Legally, automated marketing calls can only be made if people have consented. This company admitted to us that it did not have consent."

Direct Security Marketing was not notified with the ICO and the firm was prosecuted at Dudley Magistrates Court in November. The firm pleaded guilty to failing to notify with the ICO. Director Antonio Pardo admitted being negligent in the firm committing the offence. The firm was fined £650, ordered to pay £492 costs and £65 victim surcharge. Pardo was fined £534 with £489 costs and £53 surcharge.

## Countdown to charity's Heartrun



The Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Steve Waltho, gets ready at Russells Hall for the run in aid of Action Heart

HUNDREDS of runners are getting ready to pound the streets of Dudley in an annual five-mile race in aid of a heart charity.

The Heartrun – organised by Action Heart – has been held in Dudley for more than a quarter of a century. The event starts and finishes at Russells Hall Hospital.

Around 500 runners are expected to take part in the event on Sunday which will raise cash for the heart rehabilitation charity based at the hospital.

Mayor of Dudley Councillor Steve Waltho will officially start the event and then complete the five-mile course himself in a bid to raise much-needed funds for the heart charity.

Councillor Waltho said: "It's a really good run to participate for a fantastic charity."

"I've supported Action Heart for a number of years now. My dad died of heart disease, so it is a cause that I can support and relate to."

The event starts at 9.30am on

Sunday, both starting and finishing at Russells Hall.

Joy Brown, fundraising executive of Action Heart, said: "It is great to have the backing of the mayor. It promises to be another brilliant day of fundraising."

"We have a team of runners and walkers from Service Birmingham, to raise money in memory of their dear colleague Paul Skidmore. Paul sadly passed away suddenly last year but was a keen member of the Action Heart Running Club."

# Date is set for Viking invasion of the carnival

ORGANISERS of this summer's Halesowen Carnival have said plans for the event are well under way after a date has been set in July.

The theme for this year's carnival is Vikings, where top re-enactment group, Jorvik Viking will perform throughout the day on July 2 at Highfields Park.

Last year's revived event was a success, despite a late switch of venue.

The group will have a camp and fight re-enactment and on the front of the programme will be Viking logo, where schools will be asked to get their pupils to create logos for a competition.

The winner's logo will be printed on the Carnival's programme. Chris Milton, Volunteer Liaison Officer will be co-ordinating the competition

## Committed

Chairman of the carnival, Councillor Stuart Henley, said: "This year's carnival has already been overwhelming and the committee are now committed to bringing another freefun fantastic day to everyone in Halesowen."

"We need as many volunteers to help with fundraising, on the day and in other ways, so if someone can give us just a few hours, over the next few months, can take on board a bit more or just help on the day – then please get in touch."

The search is now on for the Carnival King and Queen and their attendants.

Anyone interested in attending or helping at the event, or for more information, email halesowencarnival@gmail.com

# Couple attacked on Valentine's Day

A YOUNG couple from Dudley were attacked by a group of hooded thugs near Merry Hill shopping centre on Valentine's Day.

A 18-year-old man and his 17-year-old girlfriend were set upon as the walked along The Boulevard just before 10pm.

The man was punched in the back of the head, suffering a potential fractured jaw. The girl was also hit, receiving a cut to her chin, in what is believed to have been an unprovoked attack. They said a group of six or seven hooded teenagers set upon them.

West Midlands Police said it has launched an investigation. Anyone with information should contact Force CID at Smethwick on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

# 350 new homes for industrial site

PLANS to build more than 300 homes at the site of a run-down industrial estate in Cradley Heath have been approved by planning bosses. Factory units off Woods Lane and Macarthur Road will be bulldozed to make way for a housing estate comprising of 351 homes.

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## Car park is closing as work starts at college

WORK on a £12 million college development is to start in Dudley as part of the ongoing regeneration of the town. Visitors to the town who park on Priory Road car park have been urged to find alternative places to park their cars when the site closes on Saturday, February 27.

Dudley Council has sold the car park to Dudley College as part of its new Advance2 teaching block.

The college's new building will provide specialist teaching space for the construction department, which is currently based at Mons Hill.

### Exciting

Drivers have been asked to use the Stafford Street and Flood Street car parks.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, cabinet member for planning and economic development, said: "This is an exciting new development as part of our overall drive to regenerate Dudley and it will also provide new state-of-the-art education and skills facilities giving young people a the best opportunities when they come to look for jobs."

"Developments like this bring new people and investment to the town which is good news for the businesses in Dudley."

"As for the car parking, there are more than enough long and short stay parking options at in the town centre, as well as free on-street parking, for people coming to Dudley to enjoy the shopping and other tourism pursuits we have to offer."

## Tickets on sale for charity ball

TICKETS are on sale for the Mayor of Sandwell's Gala Charity Ball, which will raise money for Acorns Children's Hospice.

The event is being held at Regis Hall, Reddal Hill Road, Cradley Heath, on Saturday, April 2 at 7pm. Doors open up at 6.30pm. The ball includes a drinks reception, a three-course meal with live entertainment and then dancing until midnight.

It costs £40 per ticket to the charity ball, or £350 for a table of 10 to attend with friends, family or business colleagues.

Mayor of Sandwell, Councillor Barbara Price, said: "I invite everyone to join us for a wonderful evening."

Call 0121 569 3041 or email [ors\\_par\\_lour@sandwell.gov.uk](mailto:ors_par_lour@sandwell.gov.uk)

## Parked vehicle wrecked by blaze

A CAR was destroyed by a fire on a private car park in Dudley.

The fire was so severe firefighters could not identify the make of vehicle when they attended the blaze at Himley Road in the early hours of Sunday.

# Giant bird boxes nest at Merry Hill



TV presenter Alex Jones's giant bird box

YOU would normally find bird boxes in the trees but at the Merry Hill shopping centre are 13 human-size versions that have been designed by celebrities.

They have been made as part of the RSPB Big Birdhouse Tour. It aims to increase support for the charity at a time when the habitats of birds in Britain are declining.

Each bird box in the exhibition has been individually designed by a celebrity to tell why birds are important to them. Among those who have taken part are One Show TV presenter

Alex Jones. Miss Jones said: "My design was based on the idea of having a birds eye view. It started with the idea of Snowdon and the little train that travels up and down. I was super keen to have a cafe at the top for the little birds. That design then evolved and became a ski scene with the little birds doing all sorts of activities."

"I think educating children from a young age about the importance of feeding the birds and how to recognise different species is very important."

"We always keep a bird book in the kitchen in case we spot something in-

teresting in the garden," she added.

Other celebrities who have designed boxes include Olympic swimmer Rebecca Adlington, architect and TV presenter George Clarke, sprinter Iwan Thomas MBE, Paralympic gold medalist Richard Whitehead MBE, naturalist Steve Backshall, RSPB president Miranda Krestovnikoff, artist Graham Swift, TV presenter Naomi Wilkinson, athlete Will Greenwood and TV presenter Konnie Huq, and others.

It's the last chance to catch the exhibition at Merry Hill on Saturday.

# Roll up for arrival of borough's big wheel

**THE largest-ever big wheel seen in the Black Country is set to roll into Dudley on March 12.**

Business bosses in the town hope the towering 114ft attraction will help to increase footfall and boost trade for the month it is in Stone Street Square, opposite Dudley Museum. The DY Eye ferris wheel will transport visitors into the air and offer panoramic views of Dudley and beyond.

The high-rise spectacular has been organised by the Dudley Business Group, Dudley Market Traders Ltd and Dudley Council.

They are hoping it will add some appeal to the town centre's offering to shoppers and visitors.

Len Lenihan, managing director of Dudley Market Traders Ltd and a member of the Dudley Business Group, said: "We are so excited to be bringing such a high-quality attraction to Dudley town centre to further boost our town's appeal to shoppers, visitors and investors."

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, Dudley's cabinet member for economic development, said: "I would like to applaud the local business community for supporting and helping to organise something so spectacular for Dudley town centre."

### Impressive

"The wheel is an impressive attraction and I hope that it brings even more visitors and shoppers into the town to enjoy the wheel and that it can be something that everyone in the borough can be proud of."

Following its opening on Sunday, March 12, the wheel will remain in place for nearly a month, throughout the Easter period, until Sunday, April 10. It will be closed on Easter Sunday, March 27.

The wheel can take a maximum of 144 passengers in 24 gondolas and will be lit up at night.

It will take three days to install the new attraction, which will be the highest flying attraction in the borough since Dudley Zoo hosted a fixed tether hot air balloon ride several years ago.

## Help catch yob who 'keyed' a car



This shameless vandal stared at the CCTV camera then continued to scratch the side of the parked car

THIS is the moment a vandal shamelessly walks up and scratches both sides of a car.

Detectives have released CCTV footage, which shows the suspect stroll up to the Audi and begin to deface the passenger side.

The vandal even pauses to stare directly at the camera before casually making his way around the

driver's side of the car and continuing to scratch down the side. Then the culprit slowly walks off.

The attack happened at 11.05pm in Wall Well, Halesowen, on February 12.

Police are appealing for witnesses to come forward.

Councillor Simon Phipps said: "The culprit is very brazen in his

approach when scratching the car, in what is a complete disregard for people's property."

Anyone with information about the vandalism is urged to contact PC Shaun Lyle on 101 or email [contactus@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk](mailto:contactus@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk)

● For video see the website [www.expressandstar.com](http://www.expressandstar.com)

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Museum marks Peak of success

A SECOND Peaky Blinders-themed evening will take place at the Black Country Living Museum in September, after its first night sold out in just 21 hours.

Parts of the popular TV gangster saga were filmed at the museum on Tipton Road and now the site will be celebrating the show at a second event planned for Friday September 9. That's the day before the original event, which is fastest selling event in the museum's history. To book call 0121 557 9643. The event is strictly 16-plus.

### Homes proposed at therapy centre

PLANS to build 24 homes on the site of a former therapy centre have been put forward to council chiefs.

The Parkes Hall Centre on Parkes Hall Road, Woodsetton, would be demolished to make way for 24 two-storey semi-detached and detached two, three and four-bedroom houses.

Access to the former occupational therapy centre building will remain on Parkes Hall Road. A new access road is to be created within the site.

Notification letters have been sent to 140 properties. One letter of objection has been received.

### Woman hurt in lamppost crash

A WOMAN was taken to hospital after her car hit a lamppost in Netherton. Emergency services were called to Marriott Road just before 9am on Thursday. The woman suffered minor injuries and was taken to Russells Hall Hospital.

Damage was caused to the front of the white Nissan Qashqai. Fire service spokesman Matthew Smith said: "The woman received a precautionary check-up from paramedics and the fire service made the vehicle safe."

### Wrestling stars in a US-style showdown

THE stars of the Alternative Wrestling World bring their American-style event Rebellion to Brierley Hill Civic Hall on Saturday.

AWW Academy Champion Daniel Valentine will put his title on the line against Dante. Two American stars will be in action - Leva Bates takes on Stoke's Violet Vendetta and TNA Impact star Andrew Everett faces Birmingham's Declan Daze. Tickets are available at the AWW website and on the door for £8. Doors open 6pm.

### Town to get micropub

HALESOWEN is set to get its first real ale micropub later this year.

Work is beginning this week to convert a former pet shop in Wassell Road into The Crafty Pint.

Planning permission has just been given for the project and the owners have been given a premises licence.

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BEFORE



AFTER

## THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



THE One Show (BBC1) did its best to celebrate BBC3 being taken off air and consigned to the internet, presenting it positively as some dazzling new launch. It didn't wash. BBC3 is being launched in much the way that HMS Ark Royal was launched into a dynamic and vibrant new role in recycling. Or as we usually call it, the breaker's yard.

A FRIEND was holding his boat at the quayside when a sudden gust caught the sails and snatched the rope from his hand. He says the most depressing part, as he waited for the rescue vessel to tow his boat back across the lake, was to reflect on all the hours he had put in to honing his sailing skills to a fine pitch, only to see his little Mary Celeste sailing perfectly beautifully without him.

"HOW VIP do I gotta get?" demanded Sir Paul McCartney when he was not recognised and was refused admission to a rapper's party in Hollywood. Not exactly the Queen's English, is it? But what was the alternative? "Don't you know who I was?"



FASCINATING research this week suggests that fat people see the world differently from skinnies. Because fat people tend to overestimate the size of mountains or the length of walks, they find exercise more daunting. The strange thing is that, although they think hills are enormous, they think pork pies are tiny.

NOW, here's a moral dilemma. I wrote recently about AAA (abdominal aortic aneurysm) screening, designed to detect dangerous swelling of the major blood vessel. A reader says he refused to be screened, partly because if a large aneurysm is detected, the patient is asked to surrender his driving licence until the condition is corrected. What if his undetected aneurysm suddenly burst while he was driving and he wiped out a young family? If we opt to decline such screening, how much responsibility should we take for that decision? For example, should the NHS inform the DVLA or the insurance industry of a refusal? In short, where do individual rights end and social responsibility begin? Over to you.

**Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star**

# Engineering a future for young apprentices

**A MAJOR investment in Netherton will see a new academy open in the autumn to train 200 young apprentice engineers over the coming year.**

Training company LEMA is moving out of Dudley College and into the new complex on Cinder Bank after a four-month transformation starts in April.

Former director general of The Confederation of British Industry, Lord Digby Jones unveiled the project in Birmingham last week to an invited audience, including scores of company bosses. He said LEMA was providing a vital service.

The 14,250sqft academy, costing £200,000, will double the size of LEMA's operations in Dudley. The Lean Engineering and Manufacturing Academy said demand from local engineering companies for apprentices had seen it run out of room at its base behind Dudley College on Broadway.

### Battle

Lord Jones, who was a trade minister under Gordon Brown's premiership, said: "It has been a long-running issue to get the country into the habit of realising the importance of apprenticeships."

"That battle is being won. It has taken 20 years but people are realising that you don't have to go to university to get on in life. It is much better to get a good quality apprenticeship than it is to get a degree in some-

thing ridiculous like Aardvark Sexing.

"The next stage is to get more smaller companies on board. That will help to ensure that engineering plays a major role in the future of the West Midlands."

LEMA director John New said: "Just under two years ago we probably had 45 apprentices across the West Midlands with various employers. As it stands today we have 200."

Staff numbers have also grown, from six to 25. LEMA opened a 20,000 sq ft training academy in Birmingham last year, in Lower Tower Street, where the launch event was held. The company is training 140 apprentices, aged 16 to 18, and expects this to rise to 200 in the first year of the academy at Cinder Bank.

Mr New added: "I am an ex-engineer and a former apprentice myself and I am passionate about the importance of training young people."

## Rare photo of leaping legend



The Victorian image of Joe Darby donated to a museum

A RARE photo of legendary Netherton leaper Joe Darby has been donated to the Black Country Living Museum.

Joe, also known as Josey the Jumper, was a Victorian showman and athlete who became nationally renowned for his spring-jumping talents.

In 1887 he defeated the then world spring-jumping champion WG Hamlington from America at Covent Garden in front of King Edward VII.

Now, an original photograph thought to have been taken in the 1880s in Netherton, has been donated to curators in memory of Keith Lockren - who found the photo in his loft in Robert Street, Lower Gornal in 1975. It shows Joe with weights in hand and a championship belt.

John Beckerson, senior curator at the museum, said: "We're very pleased to add this original photo to our Joe Darby collection."

"We want to remember the sporting heroes of the region and will be putting it on display shortly."

In later years Joe became the landlord of the Albion Inn pub, in Dudley, before he died in 1937 aged 76.

## Trader hit with court bill over logo use

A TRADER has been landed with a court bill of £2,800 after falsely claiming to belong to various approved trader schemes.

Christopher Rock, 30, who ran the Bathroom Shop at Lyde Green in Cradley, pleaded guilty to an offence under the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008 at Dudley Magistrates' Court.

Rock, of Highfield Crescent, Halesowen, also admitted an offence under the Fraud Act 2006 of participating in a fraudulent business. Rock was fined £2,000 and ordered to pay costs of £693 and a victim surcharge of £120.

Dudley Trading Standards was alerted by Gas Safe Register, who had been made aware that the shop's website was displaying its logo when it was not registered. Enquiries revealed the website was also displaying logos of three other approved schemes that it was not a member of, including the Guild of Master Craftsmen.

Warnings to the shop to remove the logos were ignored.

The court was told the business is no longer trading.

Councillor Rachel Harris, cabinet member responsible for trading standards, said afterwards: "We will not hesitate to take action against traders who make misleading claims which deceive the customer."

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## £2m bill to set up new authority

COUNCILS across the Black Country have stumped up around £2 million towards setting up the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA).

Members of the new WMCA could contribute even more money next year to pay for 'consultants and experts'. Seven councils have signed up for the WMCA, including all those in the Black Country.

The Government says the combined authority will bring up to £8 billion investment to the region, as well as giving the area more control over housing and transport under an elected mayor.

But it has emerged that each metropolitan district council involved in the scheme has paid out around £500,000 to cover 'initial costs', exceeding the original £300,000 contribution agreed by each council last year.

Bill Etheridge, a UKIP Euro MP and Sedgley councillor, said: "This process is already getting out of control with spiralling costs." Fellow UKIP Dudley councillor Paul Brothwood called it a 'waste of taxpayers' money'. But WMCA shadow board member Councillor Darren Cooper, leader of Sandwell Council, said: "The money is being used to pay for the initial costs of consultants and experts as we move towards setting up the combined authority. The benefits will come back to us 10-fold"

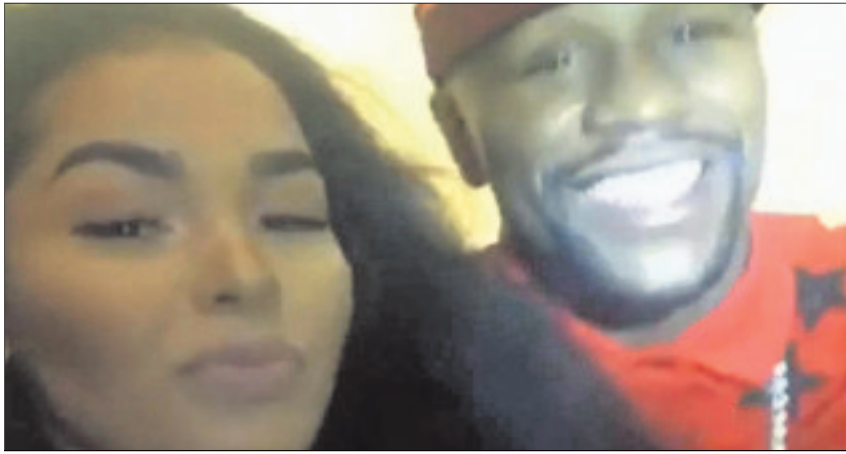
## Man dies after being hit by car on seafront

A MAN from Birmingham has died after being hit by a car near the sea front in Weymouth.

He was struck by a car on The Esplanade at the Dorset resort at midnight on Tuesday. The 61-year-old pedestrian died at the scene, said police, after being struck by a Saab, driven by a 32-year-old Dorset man.

# Crook caught after driving children to school in stolen car

## Floyd thinks shop girl is a knockout



One of Merry Hill shop girl Rmarni's selfies taken with multi-millionaire American sportsman Floyd Mayweather

A TEENAGE shop worker from Dudley is being whisked around the world by multi-millionaire former world boxing champion Floyd Mayweather.

Raemarni Ball - who goes by her Instagram name Rmarni - hit it off with the star at his Cannock show last week. The 19-year-old beauty has since been posting photographs of her adventures with the world's richest

sportsman. At the former Dudley College student's modest semi-detached home in Kirby Drive, her mother had refused to comment on her daughter's new found fame. Instead she handed over an email address of a PR company.

Colleagues at New Look, where Rmarni works in the Merry Hill shopping centre, also refused to comment.

It seems the teenager has been on a whirlwind trip with pictures posted on social media showing her living it up on the 38-year-old American celebrity's private jet and in a Rolls Royce.

She met Mayweather at Bar Sport earlier this month, where the undefeated 12-world title champion from Grand Rapids, Michigan, was making a public appearance.

A CROOK is starting a 15-month jail term after being seen taking his partner's children to school in a £30,000 Mercedes days after it was stolen.

Nicky Rothero ran his partner's six-year-old twins to and from classes in the car, which had been taken after a car key burglary, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard. The luxury car had aroused the suspicion of an off-duty police officer.

The Mercedes A220 had been stolen from the driveway of a house in Lakeside, Stourbridge - along with another car worth £39,000 - a week before Rothero was seen at the wheel, explained Mr Paul Spratt, prosecuting.

The car was carrying false registration plates but further inquiries indicated it matched the stolen car.

The off-duty police officer saw Rothero - who had 23 previous convictions involving 82 separate offences - driving the Mercedes on three days in succession from September 8.

John Smitheman, defending, urged the judge to give a suspended sentence as most of his offending had been when he was much younger.

Glazier Rothero, of Windsor Road, Halesowen, whose previous convictions included conspiracy to commit car key burglaries, pleaded guilty to handling stolen property.

He was sent to prison by Recorder Barry Berlin, who told him: "You have a formidable record for offences of dishonesty. I am satisfied you had direct contact with those who had committed the burglary. I would be failing in my public duty if I allowed handlers of vehicles taken from domestic residences to simply walk free from court."

Rothero had earlier been banned from driving for having no insurance on the occasions he drove the children to school in the stolen Mercedes.

## Robber loses his appeal on sentence

TOP judges have dismissed a thug's appeal over his seven-year prison sentence. Chad Davis, aged 25, was jailed at Wolverhampton Crown Court last August after he admitted two counts of robbery, including a brutal car-jacking and £20,000 store raid.

Davis' first crime occurred at dawn on January 14, 2014, as his victim, aged 39, was getting into her car to go to work. He and his accomplice dragged her from the vehicle and grabbed the keys, although the woman courageously resisted. One of the attackers then shoved her to the ground before speeding off in her car.

The same vehicle was used as the getaway car after a raid at Tesco in Bristol Road, Oldbury. Davis, of Higgins Walk, Smethwick, challenged his sentence at London's Appeal Court. Mr Justice William Davis, sitting with Lady Justice Sharp and Judge Sarah Munro QC, ruled his sentence was justified.

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IN MY VIEW  
with Mark Andrews



# It sounded bearable with letter D left out

ANYBODY who has worked in the high-pressure, fast-paced world of breaking news will sympathise with the reporter for NBC News, who posted on the organisation's website: "Isis fighters are shaving bears and hiding in civilian homes to avoid airstrikes".

A couple of moments later there followed a correction: "It was beards, not bears." I think I preferred the first version.

FIRST it was vinyl, now cassette tapes are said to be the next big comeback.

Across the pond, sales of music tapes are now rising so unexpectedly that the Recording Industry Association of America is now looking at ways to tracks sales once more, and no doubt in a year or two we will all be crouched once more over a ghetto blaster with fingers poised delicately over the pause button to cut out the voiceovers. Or borrowing records from the library to copy onto cassette. For personal use only, of course.

Now as you can see from the picture at the top of the page, I've always been something of a hipster, so it is great to be leading the way once more. And looking ahead, I think this year's break-out artists will probably be James Galway, Mike Oldfield and Demis Roussos. And maybe Roger Whittaker. Durham Town, what's not to like?

Then again, I've got a quadrophonic 8-track in the car. Trust me, it's the future.

SO Matt LeBlanc breaks down in a Reliant in Cannock, while it sounds like the wheels are already coming off the BBC's new Top Gear before the first broadcast.

The problem is, it looks like the producers have approached the programme with the express intention of trying to maximise viewing figures by appealing to as many different groups as possible while at the same time trying to avoid offending anyone.

Chris Evans, a sort of politically correct Clarkson who hosts a nice middle-of-the-road radio show. But he's unknown in America, so better throw a well-known Yank in. A German female racing driver in a Venus T-shirt, that'll kill two birds with one stone. A black, bad-boy rapper, he'll appeal to another section. A racing driver? Need to keep the motorsport buffs happy.

Stone me, there's more stereotypes there than a Village People tribute act. And there's seven of them.

Well here's an idea. Why not cut the number of presenters down to just three? Three people who are not necessarily well known, but have credibility because they are seasoned motoring journalists. I know it sounds a bit risky in today's celebrity-obsessed culture where even the BBC spends its time desperately chasing the ratings.

But they did try it before. And it didn't work out to badly then, did it?



Dave Heeley with his first pair of glasses



With Harry Corbett and Sooty in Blackpool



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Bringing his daughter Grace into the office

# Blind Dave shines new light on his life

An amazing and inspirational story – Dave Heeley has published his autobiography.

ANDREW TURTON reports

**"BLINDNESS was a gift – it has given me a great life."**

It's a remarkable story for a man to use losing his sight as the inspiration to take on challenges, raising £3 million for charity.

But for Dave Heeley, known affectionately as Blind Dave, it's only ever been about seizing the next opportunity to help others. Now that story has been told as the charity champion releases his autobiography From Light to Dark.

"I wanted to write it simply for my kids – I wanted them to know everything," he said. "People come to me and say 'hey you're our local celebrity'. And I go 'nah I'm not'. Who I am is who I am. I'm Blind Dave, the old codger from West Brom. And I do what I do because I enjoy doing it and enjoy supporting people."

**Machines**

Dave was the first blind man to run seven marathons, on seven continents, in seven days back in 2008. From nowhere he was appearing on television, his story filling column inches in newspapers.

Life changed overnight but despite his new found fame, his feet were kept firmly on the ground.

The 58-year-old father-of-three still lives close to where he grew up in Elizabeth Road, West Bromwich. His mother Annie manned machines at Conex before later working at a care home. His father George was a maintenance fitter at firms including Wellington Tube, Great Bridge.

Dave attended Greet's Green Primary School



Dave with wife Deb and his guide dog Seamus

and later George Salter School. He developed skills in woodwork which he still uses today to create furniture in his own workshop.

Deterioration

He was just 10 years old when he was diagnosed with the eye condition retinitis pigmentosa which brought the gradual deterioration of his sight. So much so that the father of three can now only see small flashes of bright then dull lights.

Dave said: "When I was 10 I was told I was going blind. I didn't have a clue what that meant. My grandad Frederick had lost his sight in his 20s too."



Dave during the Marathon des Sables



By the sea with Georgie-Lee and Dannie

Dave suffered a blow when his failing sight led to his application to join the Army being rejected at the age of 18.

"That's when it hit me. I tried to hide it. I wouldn't have a white stick. I was a creature of habit. I went on the same path. I would count the steps to the bar," he said.

"Once I started to accept it, get the support I needed, everything changed. I couldn't believe I hadn't done it sooner."

Soon he was offered a guide dog which led to him seizing upon the idea to fundraise for the charity.

In 2002 he took part in the London Mara-

thon, 35 years since he has last laced up his trainers. "The finish line provided the changing point in my life. Tears were running down, the noise, the sound. Amazing," he said.

A veteran of 14 London marathons, his later challenges have taken that one step further. He struck upon the idea for seven marathons, in seven continents in seven days after hearing explorer Sir Ranulph Fiennes talk about it in 2003.

The mammoth challenge saw Dave win fame across the globe. It gave him the chance to hold talks for schoolchildren and forge strong links with his beloved West Bromwich Albion.

He was taken on the pitch at The Hawthorns to receive a rousing round of applause from the Baggies faithful after that challenge.

And Dave's efforts led to him start supporting West Brom's charitable cause The Albion Foundation.

"I grew to know the work that they did. This sort of thing wasn't around when I was a kid," said Dave who is married to Deb and has three children – Grace, 25, Georgie-Lee, 14, and 12-year-old Dannie.

The challenges kept coming. And he isn't finished yet. He will be joined by West Brom legends Brendon Batson and Bob Taylor for the Baggies Bike Challenge with around 30 riders taking on a 180-mile cycling route from the home of Norwich City, Carrow Road, to The Hawthorns, between March 17 and 19.

Legendary explorer Sir Ranulph Fiennes has penned the foreword to Blind Dave's book. Sir Ranulph writes: "I'm sure Dave will continue in his endeavours well into his twilight; after all, his fitness outstrips many younger men."

"A true inspiration."

From Light to Dark: The story of Blind Dave Heeley is now available. Dave has begun a book signing tour this week, with dates left for West Bromwich Central Library on Friday from 10.30am, Waterstones in Walsall on Saturday from 1pm and Smethwick Library on March 1, from 10.30am.

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# So why bother paying car insurance?

I WITNESSED a hit and run. The young lad drove into the back of another car that had stopped at a mini island to wait for traffic to pass.

As the driver of the first car got out of his vehicle the lad backed up and drove away at speed before we could get registration details.

Luckily there did not seem to be too much damage but he has got away with it.

Three days ago my niece's car was hit by a hit and run driver, this time with considerable damage. She has a photograph of the vehicle involved

in the accident with full registration number but she does not have an independent witness so the police are not interested (new policy apparently).

She has been in touch with her insurance who tell her the other car is not insured so she will have to pay the excess. When she informed the police that the other driver has no insurance they told her it is not their problem and it seems that even though they have proof of this handed to them on a plate they are not going to do anything about it. So he gets away with it.

Three weeks ago my cousin's daughter was knocked down on a crossing by a driver who overtook the other stationary vehicles, hit her, throwing her over the bonnet and then drove off. He left her with a broken leg, broken elbow, a cracked vertebrae and a great deal of bruising.

She will be off work for several weeks to recover but even though they have several witnesses and full details, up to the time of writing no-one has been arrested. Looks like they have got away with it. Why bother paying insurance?

J JAMES  
Wordsley

## Bus firms snub needs of patients

WE had bus No.88 which used to go from Blackheath to City Hospital, and the bus company in their wisdom stopped this service.

There are hundreds of people in and around where I live who now have to get a bus to Oldbury and then another to City Hospital. This is very difficult for elderly and infirm people. I have to get a friend there who is an amputee.

It does cost £20-plus for taxis, and we think bus companies should think about it when they make these decisions. We also have to go to the Queen Elizabeth from time to time, no through-bus to there either. They also took the 205 bus off which went direct to Russells Hall, again two buses.

The only consolation we have is that we have on our doorsteps the 4M to Sandwell Hospital.

So come on bus companies, think about other people for a change.

J ASHFORD  
Rowley Regis

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### POST

Dudley Chronicle,  
Chronicle Editorial,  
51-53 Queen Street  
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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

### EMAIL

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## Growing concern over dogs in parks

THE recent letters advocating that dogs be excluded from certain areas of public parks shows that there is a growing disquiet with the takeover of these amenities by dogs and their owners. Haden Hill Park in Old Hill is a prime example.

Whilst I appreciate that the park is extremely popular with dog owners, the ability of individuals and families to enjoy the park is inhibited by the amount of dogs allowed to run loose. It is virtually impossible to walk the paths without seeing dogs rampaging through the flowerbeds.

Apart from the damage done, it is disconcerting to say the least to have to be constantly aware that the dog bounding towards you may not be of a docile demeanour. In some cases there are owners who bring three and more dogs to run free - surely they cannot be in control, or clean up after them all?

The park is funded by all council tax payers and those that do not wish to run the gauntlet of loose dogs have as much right to enjoy the park as those who wish to exercise their animals. If the dog owners had their own designated area, then the problem would not exist.

J PARKER  
Cradley Heath

## Tories seem economical with truth

WITH more global financial uncertainties looming, Mr Cameron and Mr Osborne were quick to tell us that they would probably need to use public finances and to borrow more to prop up the financial sector.

They also emphasised that it is all due to a slow-down in the global economy over which they have no control. Wasn't that exactly what the Labour Party had to do?

But Labour weren't facing just a 'slow down' the entire global economy was collapsing around them.

Faced with a similar but lesser crisis, Messrs Cameron and Osborne are now endorsing the actions taken by the previous Labour government. Yet during the elections of 2010 and 2015 the Conservatives were critical of Labour's actions. When it comes to economics, it seems the one thing the Conservatives are most economical with is the truth.

M CLIFF  
Wall Heath

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8 Inquest told man faced anxiety battle

Halesowen Chronicle Thursday, February 25, 2016

A MAN who was found hanged had continuously battled high anxiety, depression and repetitive behaviour, an inquest heard.

Philip White, aged 59, was discovered in Habberley Road, Rowley Regis, by his wife on December 28 last year.

Speaking at Smethwick Coroners Court, Coroner Zafar Siddique, said that Mr White had been admitted to Edward Street Hospital in West Bromwich for depression between June 19 and December 9 last year.

Statements from the medical service explained how Mr White had a long history of mental health problems and on a number of occasions he had 'expressed that he wanted to kill himself'.

In November before being discharged he said that he wanted to 'live a normal life and get back into the community', the court heard.

Concluding a verdict of suicide, Mr Siddique said: "Mr White had a long history of depression and suicidal thoughts and was hospitalised because of this. He also suffered from a pre-occupation with health.

"Therefore he took his own life and this was a suicide.

"I would also like to take this opportunity to offer my condolences to the family."

Teenagers arrested over bomb hoax call

TWO teenagers have been arrested in connection with a hoax bomb threat at a training centre in Oldbury.

The boys, aged 16 and 17 and both from Sandwell, were held over a call to the Nova training centre, in Church Street, on January 28. The centre received a threat which prompted them to evacuate.

Both of the boys have been bailed with conditions while further inquiries take place.

# Hockey chief hopeful after crisis talks over pitch move

## Artist's watercolours come home



Dudley artist Martin Poole's canal and urban based work has gone on display at a new waterside exhibition at The Portal

A BLACK Country artist says his paintings have come home after he launched a new waterside exhibition at the Dudley Canal Trust new HQ The Portal.

Martin Poole has brought a selection of his works, many inspired by the region's industrial heritage, to the site on the Birmingham New Road, which is near to his home.

Many of his creations featuring waterways from across the country – making them watercolour paintings in more ways than one.

He developed a love of the canals in Dudley when he explored them as a youngster, he explained.

### Limestone

One of his paintings on display, called 'A Tight Squeeze', is a watercolour based on sketches of the entrance to the canal trust tunnels and limestone mines.

His work will overlook the canal in the centre's new exhibition space for the several weeks.

Tipton-born Martin, who has spent

time in the Canadian wilderness and has also been a teacher and soldier, has been drawing since he was a young boy.

His work has been exhibited in the US, France and Canada and says his latest display takes him full circle to the place he first go artistic inspiration.

He has also been involved in Black Country Urban Sketchers, local group of the national Urban Sketchers, a community of artists who practice on-location drawing.

TWO hockey clubs looking for a new home after being forced out of The Dell Stadium because of a new football pitch are in talks over options for their future.

Both Dudley Ladies Hockey Club and Kingswinford Hockey Club were looking at the possibility of closure after Dudley Council unveiled plans for a new £500,000 floodlit football pitch at the stadium in Bryce Road, Pensnett.

But at a meeting last week between the hockey clubs and the England Hockey Association (EHA), they were given better options than they originally anticipated.

Options are Leasowes and Windor High Schools in Halesowen, Ormiston Sandwell Community Academy, Aldersley High School and Burt Williams Leisure Centre both in Wolverhampton, Ellowes Hall in Dudley and Ormiston Forge Academy in Cradley Heath.

### Positive

Dudley Ladies Hockey Club chairman Sharon Mason said: "When it was first announced, our future was looking bleak to say the least. But after this meeting, we as a club are beginning to feel a lot more positive for our future.

"The EHA are working very hard to find us the most suitable new base, and I have to say the meeting went a lot better than expected.

"Originally when we formed, we were based at Ormiston, but were forced to move to Leasowes as we were outside the Dudley borough. Ideally, we don't want to be moving outside the borough again, but we have more options available to us than originally thought.

"Worst case scenario, the clubs would be forced to fold, which none of us want. But this is something that is not even being considered at this stage, it is still very early days."

## Heroes show aims to be a super success

FANTASY fans will get a chance to see their favourite Marvel super heroes in live action in Birmingham later this year.

Tickets go on sale next Friday, March 4, for the Marvel Universe Live! Super Heroes Assemble show at the Barclaycard Arena from December 26 to 30.

From Spider-Man and Thor to Hulk and Black Widow, the costumed characters from the Marvel comics and movies will take on such sinister super villains as Loki.

The show will feature state-of-the-art special effects, explosions, stunts and martial arts.

The production is by Feld Entertainment Inc, the creative team that brings audiences such spectacular arena shows as Disney On Ice.

Tickets are on sale from 9am on March 4 at [www.theticketfactory.com](http://www.theticketfactory.com) or by calling 0844 3388222 (7p per minute plus access charge) for tickets priced from £56.95 to £28.83 plus fees.

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DENTAL technician Steve Morris carefully crafts a denture, ensuring that a small aperture on the side of the prosthetic will be able to accommodate a tiny valve.

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"It's clever stuff," says Steve (GDC 142474), "a small diaphragm seals off a one-way valve under bite pressure, creating a vacuum between the denture and gums. The result is a better fit to the soft tissues and improved resistance to any dislodging forces created by eating and speaking."

### Steak for dinner

For the right person, the Ultra Suction Solution can remedy common denture stability problems without surgery and messy fixatives.

"We recently manufactured a second prescription for a patient. We knew the fit was as perfect as it could possibly be, but I was amazed when they called the lab to tell us they'd been on their initial 'test run' with a steak for dinner.

"The patient was very happy with the outcome," adds Steve.

The Suction Solution option attracts the

biggest number of inquiries at the Denture Clinic in North Street, Dudley.

Principal Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng) GDC 108353, who heads the team at his multi-disciplined practice says: "We have always endeavoured to be on the very cusp of clinical development and this device is another useful option in our commitment to try to deliver results greater than patient expectations."

Historically, lower dentures can present stability problems as the jawbone erodes with age. With traditional dentures this can cause lower teeth to move and result in painful friction problems on gums.

The suction device can be mounted in upper or lower dentures and due to its efficiency the size of the acrylic 'plate' can sometimes be reduced, improving speech and taste.



"I need to stress, however, the option is not suitable for all, but a single, free initial consultation would determine whether it could be the way forward. We never sell solutions here, but provide honest, comprehensive, clinical appraisals that help patients make informed choices," says Steven.

To achieve an harmonious fit, Denture Clinic prescriptions are 'set' using a Biofunctional Prosthetics System (BPS) which helps accurately replicate natural teeth anatomy during the production process.

"The fit is stunningly accurate," he adds. Typically, denture patients will be assigned more than three-and-a-half hours of surgery time in achieving the best possible outcome.

### Scanner

The Denture Clinic operates hand-in-glove with Steven's North Street Dental & Implant Clinic operation.

"Having everything under one roof – denture provision, general dentistry and dental implant provision – gives us a huge set of solutions and a deep pool of clinical skill from which we can draw.

"With a 3-D scanner, modern and air conditioned surgeries and a creative team, I believe we are strongly placed to tackle most problems," says Steven.

Steven, whose clinics attracts patients from as far as Portugal, Spain, the Isle of Skye and the Isle of Anglesey, adds: "Implant dentistry is the ultimate, long-term solution for denture stability problems, but it is not suitable for everyone, neither is it all patients' first preference.

"The beauty of the suction technology is that it has the potential to deliver in the right patient excellent retainer qualities without the complex clinical procedures required for implant work."

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# Restored chapels to host weddings



Lye and Wollescote chapels have been restored and modernised as a venue for weddings and christenings

HISTORIC chapels given a second chance are ready to throw open their doors to soon-to-be-wed couples after undergoing a £1.2 million restoration.

Work to bring the Lye and Wollescote Chapels back into use after more than 20 years in the doldrums is complete, with the scaffolding around the building for months having been removed to reveal an impressive structure.

The Grade II listed chapels have been transformed from a tired and crumbling building to a site fit for the 21st century.

The building, in Cemetery Road, Lye, has been converted into a venue for civil ceremonies, including weddings and christenings, and renamed the Thomas Robinson Building after its original architect.

Some 40 couples have already enquired about holding ceremonies there.

## Forever

The Victorian chapels have been closed since 1993 and there were real fears in recent years they could be knocked down and lost forever. The refurbishment has seen them maintain their historic character while ensuring they are fresh for a new era.

Masonry and stonework have been touched up, stain glass windows repaired and replaced, while the weather vane on top of the spire was taken away to be repaired.

History trails and information points are to be added to the cemetery to improve people's understanding of the significance of the site.

West Midlands Historic Buildings Trust secured a £1m grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund for the project.

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## Life-saving deal for more defibrillators



Professor Geoff Layer and Anthony Marsh sign the deal to make defibrillators more widely available

LIFE-SAVING defibrillators will be introduced at 30 locations across the Black Country and Birmingham. It follows a deal between West Midlands Ambulance Service and the University of Wolverhampton.

The university is pledging to install the defibrillators at its campuses in Wolverhampton, Walsall, Telford and Burton as well as at partner academy schools including The ACE Academy in Tipton, Featherstone Academy and Pye Green Academy, Cannock. An automated external defibrillator helps to restart the heart of someone in cardiac arrest.

Professor Geoff Layer, vice chancellor at the university and West Midlands Ambulance Services chief executive officer Anthony Marsh met to officially sign the memorandum of understanding. Mr Marsh said: "We've helped to install thousands of defibrillators and trained 60,000 people in life-saving CPR skills across the region." Professor Layer added: "It's really important that we officially show support and commitment to the ambulance service, helping them to provide a rapid response in the event that someone suffers a cardiac arrest on our premises."

## Driver hit over head with handle of pickaxe

A FURIOUS motorist who smashed another driver over the head with a pickaxe handle, splintering part of his skull in a road rage attack has been jailed.

Eugene Hamilton believed Michael Anderson had pulled out in front of him outside a fast food restaurant, a judge was told.

The jobless 36-year-old followed the victim's BMW from the McDonald's car park on to the Hagley Road in Quinton where he forced him to stop, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

by John Scott

pressed and splintered' fracture to the skull as well as a bleed on the brain.

Father-of-one Hamilton, who had eight previous convictions, had sought psychological help for 'impulsivity and getting things out of proportion' shortly before the attack and had since been treated for a personality disorder, said Mr Peter Radcliff, defending.

Hamilton, of Attingham Drive, Dudley pleaded guilty to inflicting grievous bodily harm to Mr Anderson on October 30 2013 and was jailed for three years four months.

Recorder Barry Berlin said: "I have to protect the public from people like you who go around with a pickaxe handle bashing people over the head."

### Gunpoint

Hamilton then took the pickaxe handle from the boot of his Audi TT and hit defenceless Mr Anderson over the head as he emerged from his vehicle.

A passing armed police patrol in an unmarked car saw the attacker standing over the prone victim so aggressively that they arrested him at gunpoint, said Mr Kevin Grego, prosecuting.

Builder Mr Anderson, who had recently recovered from a stroke and had stopped at the car park to collect a workmate on the way to a job, received a 'de-

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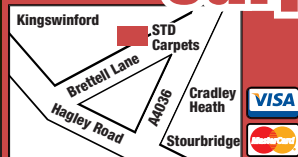
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## Steam hammer to fall again at museum



The Anchor Forge at the Black Country Living Museum, where the steam hammer will work again later this year

THE Black Country Living Museum is just £5,000 off its £99,000 goal to restore its Anchor Forge steam hammer, which was last operated in 1991.

The museum's 1920s Anchor Forge is a reconstruction of the last known working anchor forge in the Black Country. That closed in 1979, bringing to an end 140 years of anchor making in the region.

The project is currently at its very early stages of development but will be overseen by the museum's senior curator Dr John Beckerson.

The museum hopes to use a variety of interpretation methods to bring this exhibition's rich industrial history to

life, including sound installations as well as its costumed characters. It aims to have the project completed and the steam hammer running by the autumn.

### Greatest

It is anticipated the forge will be in operation for approximately 40 days of the year, though it will be on permanent display during opening hours.

The steam hammer is considered to be one of the greatest inventions of the Industrial Revolution, and one of the fundamental ways in which the power of steam was harnessed.

Carolyn Sankey, director of devel-

opment at the museum, said: "This work is crucial to prevent the loss of an important piece of Black Country history. Once up and running, the immense sight and sounds of the Anchor Forge steam hammer in action will provide our visitors with the opportunity to learn even more about our unique industrial heritage."

More than £90,000 has so far been raised from a number of bodies and individuals but funds are still needed and any donations can be made by contacting the Tipton Road museum.

The restoration forms part of the Major Partner Museum programme, alongside partner, Culture Coventry.

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# Firm invests in the future by taking on apprentices

HALESOWEN business TotalKare is investing in its future by taking on apprentices.

The former Somers TotalKare operation at Coombs Wharf, Chancel Way, has just appointed three young people to its established apprenticeship programme.

The heavy duty vehicle lifts firm believes that developing the next generation of engineers, managers and administrators is essential to its long term success.

George Jackson, Ryan Skinner and Dalvir Singh Suthi are looking forward to rewarding careers in a variety of roles.

Currently studying for a business administration level three qualification at Halesowen College, 18-year-old former Kingswinford School pupil George is also working as a service contract executive at the Hale-

sowen-based firm. Meanwhile Ryan, 19, who went to Hillcrest Secondary School in Netherton, is receiving on the job training as an apprentice engineer. Former Hamstead Hall Six Form pupil Dalvir, 21, is studying for an Association of Accounting Technicians qualification whilst working as a finance assistant.

Tim Jackson, managing director of TotalKare, said: "We are fully committed to our apprenticeship programme as we see it as important investment in the company's own future, as well as being to the long-term benefit of the wider UK economy. It's important for businesses of all sizes and from across all industry sectors to step up to the plate and take on apprentices to equip young people with the skills they will need for a rewarding career whilst helping to drive economic growth."



George Jackson is one of Halesowen firm TotalKare's latest recruits to its apprentice programme

# Landlords warned over right to rent law

NOW the Government's right to rent legislation is in force, lettings agency Connells, which has branches across the Black Country, is advising landlords to ensure they are fully informed of what it means for them.

It is inviting landlords with questions about the new law to visit its branches for help.

The legislation requires all landlords in England to carry out immigration checks on tenants starting a tenancy on or after the start of February to ensure they are legally allowed to live in the UK.

## Risks

"It's important that landlords are fully aware of this new legislation and of the risks that they face if they don't comply with the Government's rules," said Karen Trace, lettings area director at Connells.

"Landlords could face up to £3,000 in fines for renting a property to someone illegally, so we are urging them to make sure they understand the process and recognise the relevant documentation," she warned.

# Lord Jones serious on making a mayoral bid

**LORD Digby Jones says he is 'seriously considering' running for mayor of the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA).**

The 60-year-old former director-general of the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) said his passion for the region, coupled with expertise and connections in the business world, meant he had the right attributes to oversee the combined authority.

The region is set to elect its first mayor in 2017. Last October, Lord Jones rated his chances of running for mayor as 'no more than five or 10 per cent', but he admitted he has warmed to the idea since.

Speaking at the launch of two new LEMA academies for engineering apprentices in Dudley and Birmingham (see page 14), Lord Jones said he would only run for the position as an independent candidate.

"I will not fight on a party ticket," he explained. "I will do it as a non-party person or not at all. I'm internationally well-connected, which would help with overseas investment, and I'm known in London, which would help with banging the drum there.

"On the other hand, I wonder if this is really a job for a 40-year-old, plus not standing for a political party means all the money and power of Labour and the Conservatives would be against me.

## Care

"I have given this a great deal of thought. I have very clear views and an independent spirit. I care enormously and the position is something I am seriously considering."

Lord Jones served as trade minister under Gordon Brown, becoming the first minister in the country who didn't belong to the party of government.

He urged the entire region to get behind the WMCA.

"There's a bus leaving



Lord Digby Jones: connected

town, and we're either going to be on it or we're not," he said. "As a region it is time for everyone to bury their differences and come together.

"You're going to go to London to get the money and you're going to take the fight to the world and you're going to win it. That needs leadership.

"I would like to see every taxpayer in the West Midlands being given a vote for a leader, who would then appoint their own cabinet. Some of that cabinet would be political, and some would be appointed. Wouldn't it be great to have a doctor in charge of the hospitals in the West Midlands or a headteacher in charge of education?"

Last month, Labour announced it would pick a mayoral candidate in July through a members ballot.

But Lord Jones said the role may not be best suited to someone aligned to a particular political party. He said: "The position is too important for that."

# Couple cut from car

AN elderly couple from Dudley had to be cut free from their car following a smash. Two cars were left badly damaged after a crash on a dual carriageway near Tamworth.

The husband and wife, who were in their 70s, were taken to Walsall Manor Hospital as a precaution but their condition was not thought to be serious. The accident happened on the A453 near Tamworth at about 11.40pm on Friday.

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13 Halesowen Chronicle Thursday, February 25, 2016

# "Going to the chapel and we're gonna get married!"

## FORMER Lye and Wollescote chapels ready to host civil wedding ceremonies

A brand new wedding venue is set to open in Dudley this April, ready for an expected flush of Leap Year proposals!

Dudley registrars are preparing for hundreds of enquiries for Leap Year weddings, some of which will be from brides-to-be who have received a positive response to popping the big question.

The lovingly restored former Lye and Wollescote chapels and grounds will provide a unique new venue for couples wishing to exchange their vows in the borough.

### Trends

Wedding trends for 2016 are showing that couples are insisting on ceremonies that cater to their individual interests, a demand that Dudley can definitely meet.

The borough already has the historic Priory Hall with its oak panels, ornate ceilings and luxurious decor as a beautiful location for ceremonies.

The beautiful Priory Park and 12th Century St. James Priory ruins provide an amazing backdrop for a marriage at Dudley register office.

From April 8 this year, the Wollescote Suite at the newly renovated former

### Did you know? The tradition of women proposing on February 29 is believed to have started in 5th Century Ireland.

Legend has it that St Brigid complained to St Patrick that women had to wait too long for men to propose. It was then agreed that a woman could propose on this day. Irish monks are said to have taken the tradition to Scotland where a law was passed in the 13th Century stating that a man could be fined if he refused such a proposal!

Lye and Wollescote Chapels will also be open for ceremonies. Built in 1879, the building is made up of two Victorian Gothic-style chapels and it has undergone a £1.2 million restoration.

The refurbishment has been carried out by the West Midlands Historic Buildings Trust, which owns the buildings and which secured money from the Heritage Lottery Fund, with support from Dudley Council.

The new Wollescote Suite, which features much of the former chapel's original Gothic architecture, will hold marriage parties in the region of 40-50 people. Provisional bookings are now being taken.

### Needs

To discuss your individual needs, contact the registrar service on 01384 815373 or via [marriage.enquiry@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:marriage.enquiry@dudley.gov.uk)



Alternatively, you are invited to one of the March open days which feature special offers and discounts for wedding services.

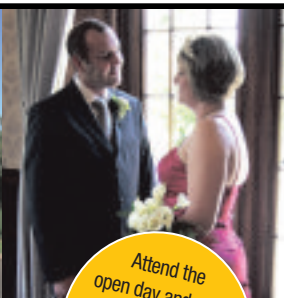
Priory Hall will be staging an event on Saturday, March 12 from 10am-4pm with many wedding exhibitors, bridal fashion shows and demonstrations.

An open day and wedding exhibition is also being held at the former Lye and Wollescote chapels now known as Thomas Robinson building on March 19, 2016 between 10am and 4pm.

Everyone attending the open days have the chance to win a wedding at the venue they visit by entering a free draw. Winners will be announced on the day.

### Lucky couple Natalie Davies and Chris Williams won an amazing £6000 wedding package competition and will be the first couple to tie the knot at the Thomas Robinson building on April 2.

Natalie, aged 30 from Pensnett and Chris, 27 from Wednesbury, beat stiff competition in an online vote organised by Dudley registrars. More than 24,000 votes were cast.



Attend the open day and enter a free prize draw to win a Priory Suite wedding!

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**An outstanding wedding venue in the heart of the Black Country, Priory Hall in Dudley is set in the picturesque Priory Park and could make all your dreams come true.**

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You can tailor your ceremony in the larger Priory Suite to reflect your tastes, including your choice of music and poetry.

Ceremony rooms also have web-cam and DVD recording facilities if you want to capture your special day.

**The annual Priory Hall open day takes place on Saturday 12th March between 10am and 4pm.**

Contact us on 01384 818349 or email [marriage.enquiry@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:marriage.enquiry@dudley.gov.uk)

**Dudley**  
Metropolitan Borough Council



Attend the open day and enter a free prize draw to win a Wollescote Suite wedding!

## The Thomas Robinson Building

Formerly the Lye and Wollescote chapels

**An exciting, fully restored Grade II wedding venue in the heart of the Black Country is set to host ceremonies from 8th April 2016.**

You can have a preview of this beautiful building at a special open day and wedding exhibition on **Saturday 19th March** between 10am and 4pm.

Work to restore the chapels and immediate landscaped areas began last year. The east chapel has been restored as a ceremony room – the Wollescote Suite – for civil marriages, with a seating capacity of approximately 50 guests. The west chapel has been converted into office space and interview rooms for the purpose of registering births, deaths and marriages.

Contact us on 01384 818349 or email [marriage.enquiry@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:marriage.enquiry@dudley.gov.uk)

**Dudley**  
Metropolitan Borough Council

# Fatal crash driver was over drink-drive limit

**A FATHER-OF-ONE** who died on Christmas Eve when the car he was driving hit a wall had been smoking cannabis and drinking alcohol, an inquest heard.

Karl Green, aged 34, and passenger Andrew Wheeler, 28, who also died in the crash, were travelling at double the speed limit when they hit a wall in Brettell Lane, Brierley Hill, at midnight on December 24.

Unemployed Mr Green, of Marine Crescent, Wordsley, had 98 milligrams of alcohol in his blood, as well as 3.1 milligrams of cannabis. Mr Wheeler, who was also unemployed, had 202 milligrams of alcohol in his system. The legal limit is 80 milligrams for alcohol.

The inquest heard how they had been to a friend's house where they had been drinking and then they started arguing before they left to head back home.

Mr Green, who had a provisional driving licence and no insurance for his blue Citroen ZX, hit the kerb before hitting a wall next to a nail salon.

## Smoke

They were spotted by another driver, Thomas Matthews, and his girlfriend Kirsty Adams who called for the ambulance after seeing smoke coming from the car.

Mr Green was still alive when he was discovered, though Mr Matthews was unable to find a pulse on Mr Wheeler, of Audnam, Stourbridge.

Zafar Siddique, lead coroner for the Black Country, said: "There was catastrophic damage to the car, through a totally devastating impact."

Pc Katrina Hall confirmed that by examining CCTV from a nearby chip shop, they could work out that the



Father-of-one Karl Green died after the crash on Christmas Eve in Brettell Lane

car was travelling almost double the 30mph speed limit at the time of the crash.

Mr Wheeler's sister Rebecca Wheeler said that her partner, a mechanic, had examined the car prior to the incident and advised Mr Green not to drive.

There was no suggestion anything was wrong with the car when the police carried out checks. Before getting into the car, it is believed Mr Green and Mr Wheeler were arguing about whether Mr Green's young daughter

Immie should be allowed to travel in the car the next day.

Mr Siddique said that a toxicology report revealed that the amount of cannabis in Mr Green's system indicated there was a high possibility he smoked the substance 'recently' before driving. He confirmed that the affects of cannabis on driving is slower reaction times.

He concluded that death was caused by way of a road traffic collision, adding: "It is an absolute tragedy for both families."

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## ADVERTISEMENT

# Expansion pays off as sales soar

**DW Windows Ltd** has gone from strength to strength over the last 12 months since renovating its new premises in Meadow Lane, Coseley, creating one of the largest showrooms in the Midlands and generating 14 new jobs for local people.

The company's turnover has increased by 30 per cent and is well on target to double in the next couple of years.

## Proud

The new state-of-the-art showroom and head office has plenty of space to allow future expansion into new areas and of course enables DW Windows Ltd to showcase many of its market leading products.

The showroom has eight conservatories and orangeries, a couple of porches and dozens of windows and doors on display, allowing customers to see, touch and feel before they invest their hardearned money.

Company director Dave Walters states: "It's been the best business decision I have ever made, opening the new place.

"The response from everyone who visits is overwhelming as the design, planning and creation of Meadow Lane is all my own doing and it really makes me proud when people congratulate me on what I have achieved. The increase in business speaks for itself.

"I am not a businessman, I am a window fitter by trade, from Bilston and have succeeded by doing the best job I can and being as honest and reliable as I can be," Dave adds.

"I try to install this work ethic into all of my staff. I have a great team around me now and I couldn't do this without them. All I ask of my fitters is to do the job better than if they were doing it in their own home and this pays off as six out of 10 of the new jobs we do are for repeat customers or recommendations."



DW Windows Ltd - Brand New 7600 square feet showroom over two floors

## Success

Steve Bull, former England and Wolves legend, opened the new showroom in July last year which was a massive success and since then the phone just hasn't stopped ringing.

They are doing 40-50 quotations per week and since the open day have completed almost 500 new installations ranging from orangeries to single windows or doors. January has been the best on record with a 50 per cent increase in business on January 2015.

DW Windows Ltd are now nearing the end of their first 10 years of trading and are looking forward to the next 10 years.

## Looking at buying your Conservatory from a whole new angle?



Flush sash UPVC window

### FLUSH SASH WINDOWS

Flush sash windows are the latest exciting development from DW Windows. They offer the realism of a traditional pre-1932 timber window combined with 21st Century thermal and security benefits.



Apeer Door

### APEER DOORS

DW Windows supply the full range of Apeer composite doors, as well as standard composites. Apeer doors provide a superb low maintenance robust colour finish and are designed to stay looking good year after year. A-Rated by design Apeer doors are designed to keep the heat in and the cold out, creating one of the most energy efficient doors available. The Apeer is a 70 mm thick double rebated door with triple glazed security glass. Making it virtually indestructible and the 'Rolls Royce' of composite doors. The doors range from traditional to the ultra modern 'Modo' collection with stainless steel trims of furniture.

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Send to: Mother's Day Greetings, Classifieds, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1ES or call into your local Shropshire Star office. Deadline for messages is 11am, Friday, March 4, 2016.

Express & Star

## Fall in numbers claiming jobless benefit

DUDLEY saw a big fall in the number claiming Jobseeker's Allowance last month as unemployment in the West Midlands fell again.

The number out of work in the region fell by 12,000 to 145,000 in the period October to December and nationally it fell by 60,000 to 1.69 million, according to the latest data from

the Office for National Statistics. Nationally, a record number of people – 31.4 million – are in work with unemployment at its lowest rate for a decade, new figures have shown.

The number of claimants, including Jobseeker's Allowance, fell by 14,800 last month to 760,200, the lowest since the summer of 1975. In the region,

Jobseeker's Allowance claimants fell by 6,389 to 67,506 – 1.9 per cent of the working population, from December to January. Dudley saw a fall of 846 to 4,379, down to 2.3 per cent.

Deputy leader Councillor Judy Foster said: "As a council we've supported Dudley's businesses through the likes of Small Business Saturday."

## Councils selling on residents' details from electoral roll

PERSONAL information is being routinely sold by councils across the Black Country and Staffordshire, it can be revealed.

The 'full' electoral roll – which lists the names and addresses of everyone registered to vote – was sold more than 116 times between 2011 and 2015, bringing in a total of £64,140 for local authorities.

Meanwhile the 'edited' version – which is available to anyone to buy but can also be 'opted out' of – was sold more than 31 times over the same period, raking in an additional £4,326.

The practice of buying and selling the information is believed to contribute greatly to the quantity of unsolicited junk mail sent out by private companies.

Walsall Council recorded the most sales of the register between 2011 and 2015, selling the 'full' version 36 times and the 'edited' version 14 times, for a total of £18,686.50.

Figures released following a Freedom of Information request reveal that Walsall Council sold the 'edited' register to organisations including carpet fitting firms, Imperial College London and Park Home Insurance Services.

### Transactions

Sandwell Council recorded £16,068.50 in sales over the period but did not disclose the number of transactions.

Wolverhampton Council brought in £11,331 from 29 sales of the register, including seven of the 'edited' version.

Dudley Council had a total income of £10,797 from 21 sales of the register with buyers including a wedding venue and banqueting suite.

West Midlands UKIP Euro MP and Sedgley councillor Bill Etheridge criticised the widespread sale of the information held on the electoral register.

He said: "People have got a right to expect a degree of care to be taken over their personal details. They should be able to feel confident their details are kept safe and are not being sold on without their knowledge."

Use of the 'full' version of the register is restricted to elections, preventing and detecting crime and checking applications for loans or credit. This means credit agencies are the sole purchaser of the 'full' roll. The edited register can be bought by any person, company or organisation.

## Tickets at the door... man



Bouncing back are Dudley Little Theatre actors, from left, David Hutchins, Karen Whittingham and John Luccock, ready for their next production

DUDLEY Little Theatre's next production is a wry look at the world of night clubs in a double bill of plays, Bouncers and Shakers.

Bouncers, by Yorkshire playwright John Godber, takes a look from the viewpoint of doormen, whilst Shakers, co-written with Jane Thornton, takes the perspective of girls on a night out. Both are hard-hitting comedies.

Netherton-based Dudley Little Theatre will be performing the double bill from March 9 to 12 at former cinema Netherton Arts Centre.

Tickets cost £8 (£7 concessions) and available on the door (cash only) from 7pm, or call Chris Ridgeway on (01384) 872583.

For further details see the [www.dudleylittletheatre.org](http://www.dudleylittletheatre.org) website.

## Dirty restaurant is fined £7,000 after inspection

## Good causes helped to bag share of £11.5m

A CHINESE restaurant in Birmingham city centre has been fined £7,000 after inspectors uncovered filthy kitchens and found no evidence staff had received any hygiene training.

Chop and Wok, on Suffolk Street Queensway, was prosecuted by the city council following the findings.

When officers went back to the premises three days after the initial inspection in February 2015, they found the kitchen was still dirty.

The restaurant – which describes itself as the ultimate Chinese takeaway and noodle bar experience on its website – pleaded guilty

to seven offences under the Food Safety and Hygiene (England) Regulations Act at Birmingham Magistrates Court. Restaurant bosses were also told to stump up £593 to cover court costs.

Councillor Barbara Dring, who chairs the city council's licensing committee, said: "All food businesses in Birmingham are included in a regular inspection programme. People should be able to have confidence in the safety of the food served and cleanliness of any food business in Birmingham – regardless of whether it's a takeaway or a posh restaurant."

SHOPPERS can help community groups and good causes across the Black Country and Staffordshire bag a share of a £11.5 million fund from the sale of carrier bags.

Tesco has teamed up with Groundwork to launch its Bags of Help campaign, which sees grants of £12,000, £10,000 and £5,000 – all raised from the 5p bag levy – handed out to environmental and community projects. This includes 12 schemes across the Black Country and Staffordshire, which will be handed awards totalling £120,000. Shoppers are being in-

vited to head to their nearest branch and vote for who should take away one of the cash awards. Voting will start at supermarkets this Saturday and run until Saturday, March 5.

Express & Star readers will have an additional say in how the money is spent. Next week, the causes short-listed will be profiled in the Express & Star. The first voting coupon to be cut out and taken to one of 10 participating Tesco stores will be printed this Saturday. Further coupons will be printed daily until March 5. Stores taking part include Tesco Extra, Cradley Heath.

# Official opening of canal centre by Princess Royal



The Portal, multi-million pound education centre at the canal entrance to Dudley's world-famous limestone caverns

**HRH The Princess Royal will be paying a visit to Dudley Canal and Tunnel Trust's new visitor centre next month for the official grand opening.**

Princess Anne will take a tour of The Portal, completed in September last year.

She will then go on to meet individuals who have played a key role in the project.

Children from nearby Wren's Nest Primary School have also been invited to the grand opening, and will

be treated to an educational workshop in the centre's new learning suite, allowing The Princess Royal to see the building in use.

Jeff Luesley, chairman of the trust, said: "The Princess Royal's visit is a real culmination of everybody's hard work on this seven-year project."

"To finally see our new centre opened by royalty is truly an honour."

The event, on March 14, will be attended strictly by invited guests only and will culminate in the unveiling of a plaque and a reception for invited guests.



HRH The Princess Royal

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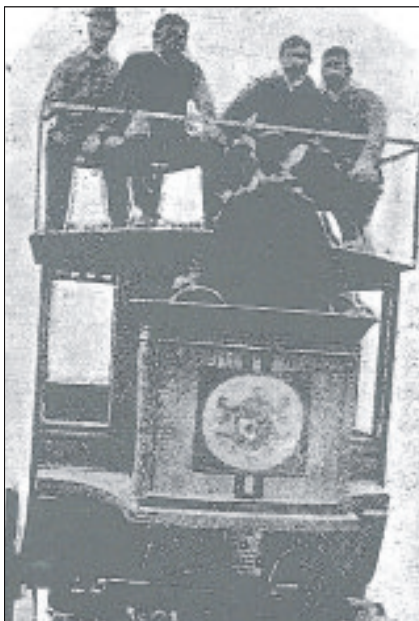
The enamel ECC sign at the Tetterhall Transport Heritage Centre



The ECC Tool Room staff pictured back in 1908



The 1897 ECC Bushbury electric car



A very poor picture of the first London bus (It was the early days of the camera as well as electric traction)

# Sign of first powered vehicles built in city

THE Tetterhall Transport Heritage Centre has just been donated by member, Gordon Nutt, a large enamel ECC sign, removed on closure from the Electric Construction Company factory.

This is entirely appropriate, and transport-related, because ECC made the first powered vehicles built in Wolverhampton.

The company was founded in 1882 by Thomas Parker, something of an inventive genius and Bedford Elwell, who owned a horse-shoe-making business in Commercial Road.

They started to make electrical equipment which soon included tramways, and a large new factory was built at Bushbury, and opened in 1888.

Thomas Parker had a battery-powered car running in 1884, and in 1891

## MEMORY LANE

By Alec Brew

the company supplied a 26-seat electric bus to the London Electric Omnibus Company, who operated it on a route from Charing Cross to Victoria station for a fare of one penny.

This was the first mechanically-powered vehicle to be licensed by Scotland Yard to be used on London streets.

### Famous

The bus was powered by 72 Sola accumulators operating two electric motors, and carried 12 people inside and 14 on the open top deck.

About four more electric buses were built for service in London, including three 14 seaters.

A number of electric cars were built in the 1890s, the most famous of which was the Bushbury electric car, which was a three-wheeler with the front wheel steered by reins.

Despite the unusual steering it gave

a good account of itself at the 1897 Crystal Palace Trials for electric vehicles.

Parker also built one or two petrol and steam powered cars, and his 1896 petrol car featured, several of his inventions, the first sparking plug, a monoblock engine and modern-type carburetors.

Around the turn of the century, the company decided to drop out of the electric vehicle market and to concentrate on making electricity generating equipment, which it supplied very successfully right across the World for the next 80 years.

Like so many inventors Thomas Parker never quite got the recognition he deserved, and reaped little reward.

For 18 months in the 1890s Parker commuted to work each day in one of his electric cars, from Tetterhall to Bushbury, and now, over 125 years later electric hybrid buses operate the Number 1 bus route from Dudley to Tetterhall, stopping within yards of the Heritage Centre where the new sign is exhibited.



A 1949 ECC works magazine, including a number of men who probably helped build electric vehicles

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Operating businesses A2Z Cars, Bearwood and Blue Sky Cars, Streetline Redline Cars, Crystal Cars, Cars 24/7, Langley Cars and Queenshead Local Cars, their fleet includes MPVs, estates, saloons and hatchbacks.

The company has five sites based in Oldbury, Bearwood, Smethwick, West Bromwich and Edgbaston, operating 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

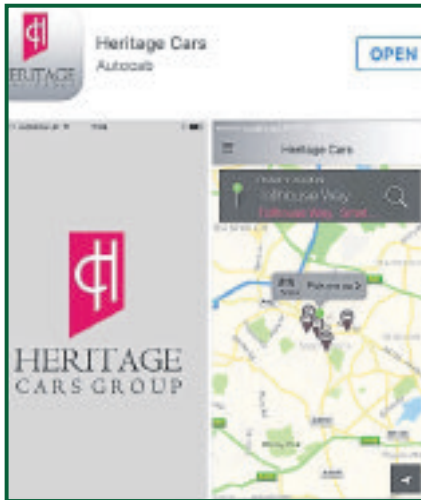
Heritage Cars are known for their reliable and friendly service, their aim is to provide a high standard of service whether you are a new or existing customer.

Heritage Cars has recently invested in a top-class technology system.

Their brand new customer-friendly app allows you to pre-book your journey, view your vehicle on a live map and contains an operation system which tracks your car right to your pick up point.

The app will soon welcome a driver identification section, where a photo of your driver will appear so you know exactly who will be providing you with your transport.

It also offers a text back and call back service on request when booking your journey, so you can stay in the warmth whilst waiting for your driver. Travelling



An app allows customers to track their car



Heritage has its head office in Smethwick, but operates from five sites 24 hours a day, every day of year

with Heritage Cars could not be easier. The fares are circulated on mileage so your payment won't be affected by traffic.

Heritage Cars want you to have the best experience, that's why their app will also let you rate your journey.

Heritage Cars offer a range of services to their customers and clients. Need collecting from Birmingham Airport? Give Heritage Cars a call whilst waiting for your baggage and they will be waiting for you by the time you walk through arrivals.

**Heritage Cars are now the largest car hire company in Sandwell**

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upon Avon, central Birmingham, Warwick Castle, horse races, football games, rugby and anywhere your interest may want you to go.

All Heritage Cars' drivers are NVQ Level 2 trained. They also serve large account companies including West Bromwich Albion FC, Next, Odeon, ArcelorMittal and many more.

To book your journey with Heritage Cars now visit [www.heritagecarsgroup.com](http://www.heritagecarsgroup.com) or call 0121 555 5151.

## BUSINESS PROFILE

**Business:** Heritage Cars

**Address:** 378 Bearwood Road, Smethwick, B66 4ET

**Telephone:** 0121 555 5151

**Website:** [www.heritagecarsgroup.com](http://www.heritagecarsgroup.com)

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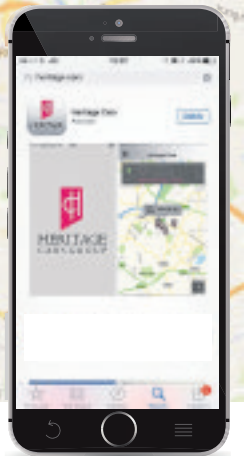
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Pass fields of aromatic flowers on the way to Grasse, arriving at Fragonard perfumery, to learn about this fascinating traditional art and its history.

The regions finest gardens and art collection are found at the extraordinary Villa Ephrussi de Rothschild where there is also a guided tour. Another of the areas historic coastal towns on the itinerary is Antibes with its ancient walls of the Old Town and narrow cobbled lanes.

And wonderful gardens and elegant boulevards are found at the delightful town of Menton, where again there is a tour, plus some free time to explore at leisure.

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- ✓ Seat in the Supertheatre
- ✓ Free time in London
- ✓ Services of a tour manager
- ✓ Single rooms subject to availability (supplement applies)

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

**DAYS: 2 DEPARTS: November 12**



## Welcome Back Flying Scotsman

From  
**£99**

- ✓ Return coach travel
- ✓ Overnight half-board accommodation
- ✓ Visit to Locomotion, National Railway Museum to see Flying Scotsman
- ✓ Visit to Durham
- ✓ Services of a tour driver
- ✓ Single rooms subject to availability (supplement applies)

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

**DAYS: 2 DEPARTS: July 23**



## Buckingham Palace and the Houses of Parliament

From  
**£149**

- ✓ Return coach travel
- ✓ Overnight half-board accommodation
- ✓ Entrance to Buckingham Palace
- ✓ Entrance and guided tour of the Houses of Parliament
- ✓ Free time in London
- ✓ Services of a tour driver
- ✓ Single rooms subject to availability (supplement applies)

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

**DAYS: 2 DEPARTS: Aug 27, Sept 10**



## Strawberry Fields, Penny Lane and the Cavern Club

From  
**£199**

- ✓ Return coach travel
- ✓ Two nights half-board accommodation
- ✓ 'Beatles coach tour 'and entrance to the Cavern Club
- ✓ Journey on the "Ferry 'Cross the Mersey"
- ✓ Free time in Liverpool
- ✓ Services of a tour manager
- ✓ Single rooms subject to availability (supplement applies)

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

**DAYS: 3 DEPARTS: Jul 22, Sept 9**



## London Welsh Festival of Male Voice Choirs

From  
**£159**

- ✓ Return coach travel
- ✓ Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation at an outer London Hotel
- ✓ Rear circle seat for the London Welsh Festival of Male Voice Choirs (upgrade offered)
- ✓ Panoramic sightseeing tour of London or free time in London
- ✓ Services of a tour manager
- ✓ Single rooms subject to availability (supplement applies)

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

**DAYS: 2 DEPARTS: October 15**



## Afternoon Tea at Chatsworth

From  
**£159**

- ✓ Return coach travel
- ✓ Overnight half-board accommodation
- ✓ Entrance to Chatsworth House and a traditional afternoon tea
- ✓ Visits to Matlock Bath and Bakewell
- ✓ Services of a tour manager
- ✓ Single rooms subject to availability (supplement applies)

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

**DAYS: 2 DEPARTS: May 15, Sept 25**



## Royal Windsor, the Tower of London and Cutty Sark

From  
**£279**

- ✓ Return coach travel
- ✓ Three nights half-board accommodation
- ✓ Entrance to Windsor Castle and the Tower of London
- ✓ Entrance to Cutty Sark
- ✓ Free time in Windsor and London
- ✓ Visit to Henley on Thames and Royal Greenwich
- ✓ Services of a tour driver
- ✓ Single rooms subject to availability (supplement applies)

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

**DAYS: 4 DEPARTS: May 6, Jun 17**



## Cornwall, St Ives, Padstow and Falmouth

From  
**£239**

- ✓ Return coach travel
- ✓ Three nights half-board accommodation
- ✓ Visits to Falmouth, St Ives, Penzance and Padstow
- ✓ Entrance to Trebah Gardens
- ✓ Single rooms subject to availability (supplement applies)

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

**DAYS: 4 DEPARTS: Jul 1, Sept 22**



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- ✓ Seven nights four-star half-board accommodation
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- ✓ Journey on the Centovalli railway
- ✓ Visits to Lake Como and Zermatt to see the Matterhorn
- ✓ Services of a tour manager
- ✓ Single rooms subject to availability (supplement applies)

Organised by Riviera Travel (ABTA V4744, ATOL 3430)

**DAYS: 8 DEPARTS: Various dates**



## Rome Ancient and Baroque

From  
**£549**

- ✓ Return flights
- ✓ Four nights bed and breakfast accommodation at a centrally located hotel
- ✓ Guided tour of Baroque Rome
- ✓ Guided tour of Ancient Rome
- ✓ Timed visit to the Villa Borghese
- ✓ Services of a tour manager
- ✓ Single rooms subject to availability (supplement applies)

Organised by Riviera Travel (ABTA V4744, ATOL 3430)

**DAYS: 5 DEPARTS: Various dates**



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- ✓ Optional excursions also available to book
- ✓ Services of a tour manager
- ✓ Single rooms subject to availability (supplement applies)

Organised by Newmarket Holidays (ABTA V7812, ATOL 2325)

**DAYS: 8 DEPARTS: Various dates**

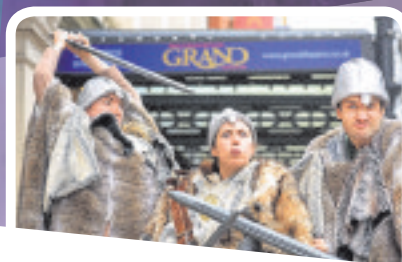


Prices are per person (unless otherwise stated). Please read brochures/web pages for full description plus terms and conditions. Dates subject to availability. Coach pick up points offered: Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton (with the exception of holidays by air, Eurostar and certain cruises). Please note the Star Reader Travel department is unable to take bookings.

# fast the ticket

## Step change

39 Steps is given  
comedy makeover  
Page 23



## Rewriting History

Horrible Histories at Grand

– See Page 23



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## Wet Wet Wet



Tomorrow, 6pm  
Genting Arena, B'ham

Marti Pellow now spends more time in musical theatre than as a pop singer, including a spell in Brum's big panto, but he's back with the band for The Big Picture Tour.  
Visit [www.gentingarena.co.uk](http://www.gentingarena.co.uk)

## WNO's Figaro Forever



Tuesday - March 5, 7pm  
Birmingham Hippodrome

WNO leap into spring with its Figaro Forever trilogy, with Rossini's The Barber of Seville, Mozart's The Marriage of Figaro and new work Figaro Gets A Divorce.  
[www.birminghamhippodrome.com](http://www.birminghamhippodrome.com)

## Jess Glynne



Tomorrow, 6pm  
O2 Academy, B'ham

Fresh from topping the charts with her debut album I Cry When I Laugh and five No1 singles including Hold My Hand, the 26-year-old Londoner will sing to a packed Academy.  
Visit [www.academymusicgroup.com](http://www.academymusicgroup.com)

## Fun Lovin' Criminals



Tonight, 7pm  
O2 Institute, B'ham

BBC Radio 6 DJ and native New Yorker Huey Morgan marks 20 years since his band's debut album Come Find Yourself and breakthrough single Scooby Snacks.  
Visit [o2institutebirmingham.co.uk](http://o2institutebirmingham.co.uk)

## POP & ROCK

**Tori Kelly**  
Sat at 6.30pm - 10.50pm,  
The Institute, Digbeth,  
Birmingham, B5 6DY.  
Call 0121 643 0428

**Sabaton & Alestorm**  
Sun at 6.30pm, £19  
O2 Academy Birmingham,  
B1 1DB.  
Call 0121 622 8250

**The X Factor Live**  
Sat at 1pm, 6pm,  
Genting Arena,  
Birmingham, B40 1NT.  
Call 0121 780 4141

**Olava Yo**  
Wed at 8pm,  
mac, Cannon Hill Road,  
Birmingham, B12 9QH.  
Call 0121 446 3232

**Ulrich Schnauss**  
Fri at 7pm,  
The Rainbow,  
Birmingham, B12 0LD.  
Call 0121 753 1818

**The Rifles**  
Wed at 7pm, £14.50  
The Institute, Digbeth,  
Birmingham, B5 6DY.  
Call 0121 643 0428

**Meatloaf Greatest Hits Tour**  
Tue at 7.30pm,  
New Alexandra Theatre,  
Birmingham, B5 4DS.  
Call 0844 871 3011

**Therapy?**  
Wed at 7pm,  
Wolverhampton Slade Rooms,  
WV1 1RQ. 0870 320 7000

**The Cult**  
Tue at 7pm - 11pm,  
The Institute, Digbeth,  
Birmingham, B5 6DY.  
Call 0121 643 0428

**The ELO Experience**  
Thu at 7.30pm,  
New Alexandra Theatre,  
Birmingham, B5 4DS.  
Call 0844 871 3011

**Fearless Vampire Killers**  
Thu at 7pm,  
O2 Academy Birmingham,  
B1 1DB.  
Call 0121 622 8250

**Bee Gees Fever**  
Tue at 7.30pm,  
The Rose Theatre,  
Kidderminster, DY10 2RX.  
Call 01562 743745

**White**  
Thu at 7pm,  
The Rainbow,  
Birmingham, B12 0LD.  
Call 0121 753 1818

**Blue Nation**  
Fri at 6pm,  
O2 Academy Birmingham,  
B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

**Stray**  
Sun at 7.30pm,  
The Robin 2, Bilston,  
WV14 7LJ.  
Call 01902 401211

**Tonight Alive**  
Fri at 6.30pm - 10pm,  
The Institute, Digbeth,  
Birmingham, B5 6DY.  
Call 0121 643 0428

**Keith James SolidAir Concert**  
Wed at 7.30pm,  
The Robin 2, Bilston,  
WV14 7LJ.  
Call 01902 401211

**Devon Allman & His Band**  
Mon at 7.30pm,  
The Robin 2, Bilston,  
WV14 7LJ.  
Call 01902 401211

**British Sea Power**  
Sat at 8pm,  
Birmingham Town Hall,  
B3 3DQ.  
Call 0121 780 3333

**Foxes**  
Thu at 7pm - 11pm, £14  
The Institute, Digbeth,  
Birmingham, B5 6DY.  
Call 0121 643 0428

**Alex Ohm**  
Fri at 6pm - 10pm,  
The Institute, Digbeth,  
Birmingham, B5 6DY.  
Call 0121 643 0428

**Hostile**  
Sat at 6.45pm,  
O2 Academy Birmingham,  
B1 1DB.  
Call 0121 622 8250

**Jess Glynne**  
Fri at 6pm, £14 - £18.50  
O2 Academy Birmingham,  
B1 1DB.  
Call 0121 622 8250

**Stiff Little Fingers**  
Tue at 7.30pm, £18.50 - £20  
The Robin 2, Bilston,  
WV14 7LJ. 01902 401211

**Leona Lewis**  
Sun at 7pm, £29.50  
Symphony Hall,  
Birmingham, B1 2EA.  
Call 0121 780 3333

**Wet Wet Wet**  
Fri at 7.30pm,  
£43.20 - £48.70  
Genting Arena,  
Birmingham, B40 1NT.  
Call 0121 780 4141

**Gunnrunner**  
Thu at 7.30pm,  
The Robin 2, Bilston,  
WV14 7LJ.  
Call 01902 401211

**Mr Ben**  
Fri at 11pm, Sat at 11pm,  
The Jam House,  
Birmingham, B31OU.  
Call 0121 200 3030

**So2f**  
Fri at 7pm, £6  
The RoadHouse Birmingham,  
B30 3DZ.  
Call 0121 246 2273

## FOLK & ACOUSTIC

**Ashley Hutchings' Morris On**  
Sat at 8pm,  
mac, Cannon Hill Road,  
Birmingham, B12 9QH.  
Call 0121 446 3232

## BLUES & JAZZ

**Wolverhampton Blues, Rhythm  
And Rock Festival**  
Sat at 2pm,  
Wolverhampton Slade Rooms  
WV1 1RQ.  
Call 0870 320 7000

**Sax In The City: The  
Notebenders**  
Sat at 1.30pm,  
Symphony Hall,  
Birmingham, B1 2EA.  
Call 0121 780 3333

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Matsuoka**  
Fri at 1.10pm,  
Barber Institute of Fine Arts,  
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**Chamber Music Night**  
Sat at 7.30pm,  
Barber Institute of Fine Arts,  
University of Birmingham,  
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Call 0121 414 7333

**BICS 2015/16 Harry Bicket And  
The English Concert**  
Fri at 6.30pm,  
Birmingham Town Hall,  
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Call 0121 780 3333

**Gilbert O'Sullivan**  
Mon at 7.30pm,  
Birmingham Town Hall,  
B3 3DQ.  
Call 0121 780 3333

**Celebration Of Music**  
Mon at 7pm, Wed at 7pm, Thu at  
7pm,  
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre,  
ST16 2LT.  
Call 01785 254653

**Birmingham Cathedral  
Tercentenary Festival Of  
Voices (The 20th Century)**  
Sat at 5pm - 8pm, £6 - £10  
Birmingham Cathedral,  
B3 2QB.  
Call 0121 262 1840

**CBSO 2015-16 - The Firebird**  
Thu at 2.15pm, £12.50 - £43  
Symphony Hall,  
Birmingham, B1 2EA.  
Call 0121 780 3333

**BICS 2015/16: Philharmonia  
Orchestra**  
Tue at 7.30pm, £9.50 - £50  
Symphony Hall,  
Birmingham, B1 2EA.  
Call 0121 780 3333

**Symphonic Rock**  
Sat at 1.30pm, 7.30pm,  
Symphony Hall,  
Birmingham, B1 2EA.  
Call 0121 780 3333

**Welsh National Opera: The  
Barber Of Seville**  
Tue at 7.15pm, £16.50 - £50  
Birmingham Hippodrome,  
B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

**Welsh National Opera: The  
Marriage Of Figaro**  
Wed at 7pm, £16.50 - £50  
Birmingham Hippodrome,  
B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

**Welsh National Opera: Figaro  
Gets A Divorce**  
Thu at 7.15pm, £16.50 - £50  
Birmingham Hippodrome,  
B5 4TB.  
Call 0844 338 5000

**Star Wars & Beyond**  
Fri at 7.30pm,  
Symphony Hall,  
Birmingham, B1 2EA.  
Call 0121 780 3333

## THEATRE

**Let's Hang On: Tribute To  
Frankie Valli And The Four  
Seasons**  
Sat at 7.30pm, £22 - £24  
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre,  
ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

**Horrible Histories: Groovy  
Greeks**  
Wed at 7pm, Thu at  
10.30am,  
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,  
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Call 01902 573320

**Ellen Kent Opera & Ballet  
International: Puccini's Tosca**  
Sun at 7.30pm - 11.30pm,  
£17.89 - £55.90  
New Alexandra Theatre,  
Birmingham, B5 4DS.  
Call 0844 871 3011

**Horrible Histories: Incredible  
Invaders**  
Thu at 1.30pm,  
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,  
WV1 1DE.  
Call 01902 573320

**The Musicians**  
Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at  
7.30pm,  
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre,  
ST16 2LT.  
Call 01785 254653

**Arcanum**  
Thu at 7.30pm,  
The Rose Theatre,  
Kidderminster,  
DY10 2RX.  
Call 01562 743745

**The Tailor Of Inverness**  
Thu at 8pm,  
Birmingham Repertory Theatre,  
B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

**Breaking The Code By Hugh  
Whitemore**  
Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 7.30pm,  
The Rose Theatre,  
Kidderminster, DY10 2RX.  
Call 01562 743745

**Single Spies**  
Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at  
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Birmingham Repertory Theatre,  
B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

**Flying Solo**  
Fri at 8pm, Sat at 8pm,  
Birmingham Repertory Theatre,  
B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

**ZooNation: Into The Hoods:  
Remixed**  
Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm,  
7.30pm,  
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,  
WV1 1DE. Call 01902 573320

**The 39 Steps**  
Mon at 7pm, Tue at 7.30pm,  
Wed at 7.30pm, Thu at 2pm,  
7.30pm,  
Birmingham Repertory Theatre,  
B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

**Jamie Raven**  
Fri at 7pm, £19.50 - £45  
Symphony Hall, Birmingham,  
B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

**Birmingham Royal Ballet:  
Romeo And Juliet**  
Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm,  
7.30pm, £16 - £52  
Birmingham Hippodrome,  
B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

## COMEDY

**Charity Comedy Night**  
Sun at 7.30pm,  
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath,  
Birmingham, B14 7JZ.  
Call 0844 870 0000

**Birmingham Is Funny: Rich  
Stokes: The Secret Of  
Happiness**  
Sat at 7.30pm,  
mac, Cannon Hill Road,  
Birmingham, B12 9QH.  
Call 0121 446 3232

**The Laughing Sole Comedy For  
Kids**  
Sun at 2pm,  
mac, Cannon Hill Road,  
Birmingham, B12 9QH.  
Call 0121 446 3232

**Adam Hills: Clown Heart**  
Sun at 8pm,  
Birmingham Hippodrome,  
B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

**Tom Stade: You're Welcome!**  
Wed at 6.45pm - 11pm,  
£16.50 - £18.70  
The Glee Club,  
Birmingham, B5 4TD.  
Call 0871 472 0400

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

# Horrible Histories takes to the stage



The dark ages go daft with Horrible Histories crew, Holly Morgan with, Andrew Alton and Elliot Fitzpatrick, at the Grand

VIKINGS, Romans and the Saxons will be invading the Black Country when Horrible Histories takes to the stage with two new plays aimed at teaching children, and their parents, more about our gruesome past.

The shows by the Birmingham Stage Company will be performed at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from Wednesday, March 2, to Saturday, March 5, including matinee performances.

The plays follow the success of the BBC children's programme, based on a series of hit books by Terry Deary.

The first show, Incredible Invaders, will reveal the grisly reality behind the history of the cut-throat Celts and the invasion by those ruthless Romans. Then the savage Saxons smash their way in and the vicious Vikings sail in too.

The second show goes to even earlier times, when those Groovy Greeks

will take the audience from savage Sparta to angry Athens to discover the truth about Ancient Greece.

The audience can take part in the Trojan War, compete in the first Olympics and appear in a Greek play... but watch out you don't get munched by the monstrous Minotaur or zapped by Zeus.

The shows feature actors and 3D special effects. Call (01902) 429212 or visit [www.grandtheatre.co.uk](http://www.grandtheatre.co.uk)



## Watch your step old boy

**LONG-RUNNING** West End show Alfred Hitchcock's *The 39 Steps* is coming to Birmingham Rep as part of its tenth anniversary tour.

Based both on Hitchcock's 1935 film and John Buchan's 1914 spy thriller, the Olivier Award-winning comedy sees the funny side of British gung-ho and the stiff upper lip (and indeed the pencil moustache above it).

The four actors - Richard Ede, Olivia Greene, Andrew Hodges and Rob Witcomb - will play more than 130 characters between them in around 100 minutes.

Patrick Barlow's adaptation opened at the Tricycle in 2006 and the same year transferred to the Criterion Theatre on Piccadilly Circus, where it ran for nine years.

### Chase

It also arrived on Broadway in 2008 and won a coveted Tony Award for best play.

The story - a frenetic chase from London to the Scottish Highlands - was famously adapted for the screen by Hitchcock and the stage production references a number of the famous scenes, including the chase on the Flying Scotsman train, escape on the Forth Road Bridge and the notorious stockings and suspenders scene.

Directed by Maria Aitken and designed by Peter McKintosh, *The 39 Steps* will be staged at the Rep in Centenary Square from Monday to Saturday, February 29 to March 5.

### Black Country is getting the blues

THE first Wolverhampton Blues, Rhythm and Rock Festival will be taking place over eight hours on Saturday.

At the Slade Rooms in the city, the festival is being headlined by British blues legends Stan Webb's Chicken Shack.

Also on the bill are The Brew, The Rainbreakers, Rebecca Downes, Peoples Republic of Mercia and Southbound. The music starts at 2pm and will go on until 10pm. Tickets cost £23. See [www.wolverhamptonbluesfestival.co.uk](http://www.wolverhamptonbluesfestival.co.uk) for further details.

Meanwhile, The Blues Band featuring Paul Jones, Dave Kelly, Tom McGuinness, Gary Fletcher and Rob Townsend play Bilston's Robin 2 tonight (Thu).

### Freezin nights out with them Fizzogs

BLACK Country comedy team The Fizzogs are bringing their new show to Wolverhampton University's Arena Theatre this weekend.

They will be performing Freezin, a spoof of the Disney movie Frozen, in public shows at the Wulfruna Street venue tomorrow evening and again on Saturday, at 7.30pm. The show is suitable for those aged 14 and over, tickets are £12.

The Fizzogs found fame when their 'dancing grannies' routine went viral on the internet and were regular performers at the Black Country Living Museum. They proved a hit at last year's Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

### Rocker returns in a Blaze of glory

HEAVY rocker Blaze Bayley, who fronted Wolfsbane and Iron Maiden, is playing a free record shop gig in Wolverhampton on Saturday. The singer will be performing an acoustic set and signing albums at Vinyl & Vintage on Cleveland Street, Wolverhampton, from 2.30 to 4pm. Blaze has a gig that evening at the Cock and Magpie pub, Sevenside North, Bewdley.

Other rock veterans in action: The Cult at O2 Institute on Tuesday, the same night Alternative Ulster punks Stiff Little Fingers are at Bilston's Robin 2. Fellow Northern Irish rockers Therapy? are at Wolverhampton Slade Rooms on Wednesday.

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**THURSDAY 03/03/2016**  
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CHOICE



Lee Mead

**Casualty (BBC1, 9pm)**  
Part one of two. Lofty struggles with the pressures of his new position when he is asked to run the nursing team for the day. He manages to secure a small victory by removing a disruptive patient from the premises, but his actions backfire when the same patient is brought back to the emergency department with a life-threatening injury. Things only get worse when a silly mistake causes an agency nurse to receive a shock from a defibrillator, and the error appears to leave Lofty's career in tatters. Meanwhile, a miserable Big Mac tries to apologise to Noel for his deception, but when Louise attempts to get to the bottom of his troubles, he misses another opportunity to tell the truth.

BBC1

**6.00 Breakfast.** 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Mary Berry's Foolproof Cooking. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.10** Football Focus. **12.50** Saturday Sportsday. **1.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **3.00** Escape to the Continent. (R) **4.00** Final Score. **5.20** Dynamo: Magician Impossible. **5.50** BBC News.  
**6.00 Regional Programme.**  
**6.10 The Getaway Car.** A Swansea mother-son duo, a chauffeur and his girlfriend, a pair of "racey blondes", two brothers from Sunderland, and Brighton-based life-partners compete in car-based challenges.  
**7.00 The Voice UK.** The blind auditions are over, and with the teams now assembled, Paloma Faith, Boy George, Will.I.am and Ricky Wilson must whittle their chosen groups down in the Battle phase. In each round, two artists from the same team are challenged to compete against each other in a vocal showdown, with their own superstar coaches deciding which of them will progress to the Knockout stage. However, each battle's losing artist has one last chance to remain in the contest. Should their performance win over another of the coaches, they can choose to make use of a last-minute "steal" to secure the unsuccessful singer for their own team.  
**9.00 Casualty.** Part one of two. Disaster strikes in the Emergency Department after Lofty takes charge of the nursing team, and a miserable Big Mac tries to apologise to Noel for his deception.  
**9.50 The National Lottery Live.** Gaby Roslin presents as the winning numbers are revealed.  
**10.00 BBC News.** Weather.  
**10.20 Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents action from the latest Premier League matches, featuring Leicester City v Norwich City at King Power Stadium and West Ham United v Sunderland at Upton Park; National Lottery Update.  
**11.40 Film: The Tuxedo.** (2002) A bumbling chauffeur dons a secret agent's hi-tech suit and sets out with a rookie spy to thwart a plot to take over the world. Comedy adventure, with Jackie Chan.  
**1.15** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.20** BBC News.

BBC2

**6.55** Animal Park. (R) **7.50 Film:** Invaders from Mars. (1953) **9.15 Film:** The Password Is Courage. (1962) **11.10** Natural World. (R) **12.00** James Martin: Home Comforts. (R) **12.45** Rick Stein's India. (R) **1.45** The Best Dishes Ever. (R) **2.15** The Best Dishes Ever. (R) **2.45 Film:** Up Periscope. (1959) Second World War naval adventure, with James Garner. **4.30** Big Dreams Small Spaces. (R) **5.30** Flog It! (R)  
**6.30 Back in Time for the Weekend.** The Asby-Hawkins family embrace the 1980s, where TV and shopping dominated the UK's leisure time. It's also the decade where technology arrives in homes in a significant way. Kids Daisy and Seth are thrilled by the new VCR and home computer, and there's even a pager for mum Steph who's now a shoulder padded businesswoman. When dad Rob is not trying out the kids' CB radio, he's going shopping for a Don Johnson makeover with fashion guru Caryn Franklin. (R)  
**7.30 Queen Victoria's Children.** Documentary exploring the reign of the monarch through her relationships with her husband and their children, using letters, diaries, memoirs and journals to bring the subject and characters to life. The first episode focuses on Victoria and Prince Albert's tempestuous marriage, their attempts to engineer the upbringing of their children and their efforts to save the monarchy by projecting a modern image of the royal family. (R)  
**8.30 Dad's Army.** A night at the cinema and a black-market toasted cheese sandwich make Mainwaring have an unusual dream in which he is Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo. (R)  
**9.00 Stag.** New series. A timid schoolteacher tags along on his brother-in-law's stag weekend in the Scottish Highlands, which quickly turns messy. Black comedy, starring Jim Howick.  
**10.00 Film: Spike Island.** (2012) Premiere. Five teenagers make a life-changing journey across Britain in the summer of 1990 to see the Stone Roses in concert. Drama, starring Elliott Tittensor.  
**11.40 They Came from Manchester: The Story of Mancunian Pop.**  
**12.40 Film:** The Secret in Their Eyes. (2009) **2.40** This is BBC Two.

ITV

**6.00** CITY: Bottom Knocker Street. **6.15** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.25** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **6.55** Sooty. (R) **7.05** Super 4. (R) **7.15** Looped. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: NERDS & Monsters. **8.30** Scrambled!: Jessie. **9.05** Scrambled!: The Tom & Jerry Show. (R) **9.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **11.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.30** River Monsters. (R) **1.00** Regional Programme  
Weather: **1.10** ITV News; Weather. **1.25** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. Italy v Scotland (Kick-off 2.25pm). **4.25** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. England v Ireland (Kick-off 4.50pm).  
**7.00 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway.** The presenter duo are joined by Gino D'Acampo for the first I'm a Celebrity. Get Out of Me Eat of the new series. Canadian rocker Bryan Adams takes part in Singalong Live and former X Factor winners Little Mix get wild in a special End of Show Show. Ant and Dec also introduce the premiere of a new mystery thriller, Who Shot Simon Cowell?, and offer one lucky member of their audience a chance to Win the Ads. Plus, the usual selection of surprises, undercover pranks and competitions.  
**8.30 Take Me Out.** Paddy McGuinness invites more would-be Romeos to enter the "love lift" and claim the hearts of his 30 single women. This time, the men seeking to win a date are Louis, a debt collector from Great Yarmouth, Tenby-based tugboat skipper Patrick Thomas, a chorister from Arundel, and Oxford stunt-man Jon. Each will be seeking a companion to whisk off to the Isle of Fernandos, but first they must get the female participants to keep their lights on as a sign of approval.  
**9.45** ITV News; Weather.  
**10.00 The Jonathan Ross Show.** The host subjects another batch of celebrity guests to no-holds-barred questioning. Plus, musical performances by A-list bands and solo artists.  
**11.05 Film: Invictus.** (2009) Clint Eastwood's factual drama.  
**1.30** Jackpot247. **3.00** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

**6.15** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.40** Frostgun Invitational. **7.30** Freeride World Tour. **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.00** The Morning Line. **10.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.00** The Superhumans Show. **11.30** The Simpsons. (R) **12.00** The Simpsons. (R) **12.30** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD. **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Kempton Park, Newcastle and Lingfield Park. **4.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.25** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.25** Come Dine with Me. (R)  
**6.00** Come Dine with Me. On the final night in Darlington, Co Durham, Audra plans to win over her guests with genuine Italian cuisine followed by a mysterious transmini, which is not to everyone's liking. (R)  
**6.30 Channel 4 News.**  
**7.00 Great Canal Journeys.** Built nearly a century before the British canal system, the Canal du Midi in the south of France has been designated a world heritage site. Timothy West and Prunella Scales explore a picturesque stretch, as it meanders toward the Mediterranean. They visit the town of Beziers and the Malpas Tunnel – Europe's first navigable canal tunnel – and taste the delights of lamb's brain fritters, as well as brandy that is almost 200 years old. (R)  
**8.00 Penelope Keith's Hidden Villages.** The actress travels through Royal Deeside, a remote part of Aberdeenshire, featuring enormous estates served by tiny communities, with five people for every square kilometre. Previously seen on More4.  
**9.00 Film: Taken 2.** (2012) Former CIA agent Bryan Mills and his ex-wife Lenore are taken hostage in Istanbul by an Albanian gangster, whose son Bryan killed while bringing down a kidnapping ring. He is able to escape with the aid of his daughter, and together they fight to rescue Lenore and wipe out the criminal family. Thriller sequel, starring Liam Neeson.  
**10.55 Film: Braveheart.** (1995) Historical epic, directed by and starring Mel Gibson.  
**2.05** Hollyoaks. (R) **4.15** Undercover Boss Canada. (R) **5.00** Deal or No Deal. (R) **5.50** How I Met Your Mother. (R)

CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake! **8.55** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **9.30** The Saturday Show Live. **11.30** Funniest Fails, Fails & Flops. **12.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.00** 87 Stone: Fat Chance of Work – SuperSized. (R) **3.00** Benefits: Me & My 25 Kids. (R) **4.00** Benefits Britain: Life on the Dole. (R) **5.00** Benefits Britain: Life on the Dole. (R)  
**6.00 Can't Pay? Benefits Special.** The agents grapple with emotional evictions and moral dilemmas as a young family is made homeless, an acrimonious divorce comes to a head, and an off-licence battles to stay open. (R)  
**7.00 World War II in Colour.** By late summer 1944, the Allied forces in Europe were thrusting toward the German border, but supply problems brought the advance to a halt, while Soviet leader Josef Stalin had halted his main push to Berlin while he laid the basis for a Communist empire. Hitler decided to stake his last reserves on a major counter-offensive in the Ardennes region of Belgium, leading to what became known as the Battle of the Bulge. Meanwhile, Soviet troops discovered the first death camps and evidence emerged of the Nazi programme to exterminate the Jewish people. (R)  
**8.00 The Gadget Show.** Jon Bentley looks at the latest raft of budget smartphones – all of which claim to offer superior features at an affordable price. (R)  
**8.55 5 News Weekend.**  
**9.00 The Championship: Football League Tonight.** Kelly Cates and George Riley present extended highlights of the latest matches in the Championship, including Wolverhampton Wanderers v Derby County at Molineux.  
**10.00 Goal Rush: Football League Tonight.** Kelly Cates and George Riley present a round-up of all the goals from League One and League Two.  
**10.30 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit.** The team investigates the murder of a teenage girl when a photograph of the crime scene is leaked online, and the victim's father and therapist soon emerge as prime suspects. (R)  
**11.20 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit.** (R)  
**12.15** SuperCasino. **3.10** BAMMA 24. **5.00** Chinese Food in Minutes.

DIGITAL

**BBC Four**  
**7.00** How Earth Made Us **8.00** The Inca: Masters of the Clouds **9.00** Trapped **10.40** The Secret Life of Bob Monkhouse **12.10** Neil Sedaka: King of Song **1.10** Neil Sedaka Says: All You Need Is the Music **2.00** The Joy of the Single **3.00** Top of the Pops: 1981 **4.40** Close  
**ITV2**  
**11.05** Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway **12.40** The Almost Impossible Gameshow **1.40** Scorpion **2.35** Film: Baby Mama (2008) **4.35** Catchphrase **5.20** Film: The Smurfs 2 (2013) **7.25** Film: Back to the Future (1985) **9.45** Take Me Out – The Gossip **10.45** Ibiza Weekender **11.50** The Keith Lemon Sketch Show **12.20** Film: Not Another Teen Movie (2001) **2.10** Beowulf: Return to the Shieldlands **3.00** Teleshopping  
**ITV3**  
**6.00** Midsomer Murders **10.00** A Touch of Frost **12.00** Blue Murder **1.35** Judge Judy **1.55** Movies Now **2.05** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping  
**ITV4**  
**12.45** Storage Wars **1.90** Film: Blues Brothers 2000 (1998) **4.15** Film: Superman (1978) **7.10** Film: Police Academy 5: Assignment Miami Beach (1988) **9.00** Film: Tremors (1989) **10.55** Film: Raw Deal (1986) **1.05** Film: The Jerk (1979) **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping  
**E4**  
**11.00** How I Met Your Mother **12.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **1.00** The Goldbergs **2.00** The Jump **3.00** Film: Maid in Manhattan (2002) **5.05** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Film: Knight and Day (2010) A woman gets kidnapped and dragged into a rogue secret agent's mission to clear his name after he is framed as a traitor. Comedy adventure, starring Tom Cruise and Cameron Diaz. **11.05** Tattoo Fixers **12.10** Gogglebox **2.20** Virtually Famous **3.00** The Inbetweeners **3.50** Rules of Engagement **4.35** Revenge  
**Film4**  
**11.00** Fixed Bayonets! (1951) **1.00** Black Knight (2001) **2.50** Magic in the Water (1995) **4.50** Just Wright (2010) **6.50** The Other Boleyn Girl (2008) **9.00** The Impossible (2012) A family spending Christmas in Thailand are separated in the 2004 tsunami and struggle to find each other in the ensuing chaos. Drama, with Naomi Watts. **11.10** The Craft (1996) Teenage witches use their powers to take revenge on classmates who have wronged them, but their leader's lust for power drives her mad. Horror, with Robin Tunney. **1.15** 4.3.2.1 (2010) **3.35** Close

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CHOICE



Michael Gambon

**Churchill's Secret (ITV, 8pm)**  
Michael Gambon stars as Winston Churchill in this feature-length drama based on Jonathan Smith's novel. In 1953, a nurse (Romola Garai) is summoned to a secret location where she learns she is needed to treat the elderly prime minister, who has suffered a stroke and is not expected to survive. She bears witness as Churchill's family gather by his bedside preparing for the worst, and sees the long-buried tensions between them rising to the surface. Also starring Lindsay Duncan, Bill Paterson, Tara Fitzgerald, Rachael Stirling, Patrick Kennedy, Christian McKay, Chris Larkin, Daisy Lewis, Matthew Marsh, James Wilby, Alex Jennings and John Standing..

BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **7.40** Match of the Day. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Home Under the Hammer. **2.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.15** The Great Sport Relief Bake Off. (R) **4.15** Songs of Praise. **4.50** Pointless Celebrities. (R) **5.35** Nature's Miracle Orphans. **6.35** BBC News. **6.50** Regional Programme. **7.00** Countryfile. Matt Baker and Shauna Lowry present the show from the Essex coast. Matt travels to Mersea Island and meets a seventh generation oyster fisherman, and learns about the decline of native oysters in the region, while Shauna discovers the role dogs have to play in a conservation effort to protect waterfowl. Plus, Adam Henson welcomes a new arrival to his farm. Tom Heap reports on how dogs can be dangerous to livestock, and Nina Waid reveals her favourite part of the British countryside. **8.00** Call the Midwife. The introduction of the contraceptive pill is welcomed by Dr Turner, but some of his colleagues are less keen on the idea. Patsy tries to help a bargee who wants to give birth among her own community rather than in a maternity ward. Nurse Crane deals with an emergency during a storm, and a familiar face returns to Nonnatus House – but has been changed by her time away. **9.00** The Night Manager. Pine and Burr hatch a plan to get Roper's attention, by faking a criminal reputation for the former soldier. Six months later, the arms dealer's son is kidnapped from his villa. **10.00** BBC News. **10.20** Regional Programme. **10.30** Match of the Day 2. Highlights of the latest Premier League matches, featuring Manchester United v Arsenal at Old Trafford and Tottenham Hotspur v Swansea City at White Hart Lane. **11.30** Film: The Other Man. (2008) A man tracks down his wife's lover after her death, intending to exact revenge, but instead strikes up an unlikely friendship. Drama, starring Liam Neeson. **12.55** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.00** BBC News.

BBC2

**6.20** The A to Z of TV Gardening. (R) **7.05** Great British Garden Revival. (R) **8.05** An Island Parish. (R) **8.35** Countryfile. (R) **9.30** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.00** James Martin: Home Comforts. (R) **11.45** The Best Dishes Ever. (R) **12.15** MOTD Extra. **1.00** Film: Apache Territory. (1958) Western, starring Rory Calhoun. **2.10** Great Directors: Talking Pictures. (R) **2.50** Film: The Philadelphia Story. (1940) Romantic comedy, starring Katharine Hepburn and Cary Grant. **4.40** Film: Tron. (1982) Sci-fi adventure, starring Jeff Bridges. **6.10** Flog It! Kate Bateman and Adam Partridge value items in the spa town of Malvern, Worcestershire, including a wooden toy top and some old coins that could be worth thousands of pounds. (R) **7.00** Six Nations Highlights. John Inverdale is joined by Keith Wood, Andy Nicol and Jeremy Guscott to present action from the third round of the 2016 championship, featuring England v Ireland at Twickenham, Wales v France at the Principality Stadium and Italy v Scotland at the Stadio Olimpico. **8.00** Dragons Den: Pitches to Riches. Richard Osman presents a look back at some of the most memorable contestants to appear on the business ideas show, and discovers what success they have enjoyed since making their pitch to the panel. Peter Jones pays a visit to celebrity chef Levi Roots, whose company Reggae Reggae Sauce became a success through a successful appearance on the show, while Deborah Meaden is reunited with Jordan Daykin, the youngest ever contestant to secure the backing of a Dragon, to discover if he has fulfilled his potential as an entrepreneur. **9.00** Let's Play Darts for Sport Relief 2016. Gabby Logan presents the last two quarter finals from the Lakeside Country Club in Frimley Green, pitting Tim Vine against Robbie Savage while Kate Humble takes on Jon Richardson. **10.00** The People v OJ Simpson: American Crime Story. (R) **10.40** Film: The Reluctant Fundamentalist. (2012) Premiere. Drama, starring Riz Ahmed and Liev Schreiber. **12.40** Film: The Black Ballon. (2008) **2.10** Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **3.00** Holby City. (R) **4.00** This is BBC Two.

ITV

**6.00** CITY: Bottom Knocker Street. **6.15** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.25** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **6.55** Sooty. (R) **7.05** Super 4. (R) **7.15** Looptail. (R) **7.30** Scrambled! Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled! Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.50** Scrambled! Horrid Henry. (R) **8.10** Scrambled! Nerds & Monsters. **8.30** Scrambled! Bear Grylls Survival School. **9.05** Scrambled! The Tom & Jerry Show. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Murder: She Wrote. (R) **10.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **11.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.20** ITV News: Weather. **12.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **1.30** Judge Rinder. (R) **2.35** The Chase. (R) **3.35** Film: The Man with the Golden Gun. (1974) James Bond adventure, starring Roger Moore and Christopher Lee. **6.00** Regional Programme: Weather. **6.15** ITV News: Weather. **6.30** Planet's Got Talent. The best and worst clips from the global Got Talent franchise, featuring a performer who can walk on water and a fight performance. Narrated by Warwick Davis. Last in the series. **7.00** Beowulf: Return to the Shieldlands. Elvina reveals a dark secret about her life to save Beowulf from danger, but the truth puts his feelings for her to the ultimate test. **8.00** Churchill's Secret. Michael Gambon stars as Winston Churchill in this feature-length drama based on Jonathan Smith's novel. In 1953, a nurse (Romola Garai) is summoned to a secret location where she learns she is needed to treat the elderly prime minister, who has suffered a stroke and is not expected to survive. She bears witness as Churchill's family gather by his bedside preparing for the worst, and sees the long-buried tensions between them rising to the surface. Also starring Lindsay Duncan and Tara Fitzgerald. **10.10** ITV News: Weather. **10.25** Perspectives – The Man in the Hat: Rene Magritte with Will Young. (R) **11.20** Premiership Rugby Union. Action from the 14th round of fixtures. **12.15** Jackpot247. **3.00** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

**6.15** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.40** The King of Queens. (R) **7.05** The King of Queens. (R) **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.25** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R) **1.35** Film: Diary of a Wimpy Kid. (2010) Family comedy, starring Zachary Gordon. **3.25** The Simpsons. (R) **3.55** The Simpsons. (R) **4.25** The Simpsons. (R) **4.50** Channel 4 News. **5.10** Film: Finding Memo. (2005) Animated adventure, with the voices of Albert Brooks and Ellen DeGeneres. **7.00** The Secret Life of the Zoo. Chester's Penguin Island is home to one of the most enduring love stories in the zoo. At 22, Rud is the oldest on the island, and has been with his partner, Spike, for over 15 years. However, keepers are concerned that Rud's arthritic hip could be affecting his quality of life. Meanwhile, the Sunatran tigers are upgrading to a luxury new enclosure on the other side of the zoo as part of Chester's huge expansion. But they've lived in their home for most of their lives so it's not going to be an easy move. (R) **8.00** The Jump. Celebrities battle it out in winter sport disciplines and two of them face a live ski jump each night to keep their place in the competition. Presented by Davina McCall. **9.00** Film: The Wolverine. (2013) Premiere. The former member of the X-Men is lured out of hiding and travels to Japan, where a dying businessman offers him the chance to give up his immortality for a normal life. He ends up robbed of his superhuman powers by a mysterious scientist and is forced to protect the tycoon's granddaughter from a secret conspiracy's assassins. Superhero adventure spin-off, starring Hugh Jackman and Tao Okamoto. **11.35** Film: Attack the Block. (2011) A student nurse and a teenage gang band together to fight off alien invaders terrorising a south London tower block. Sci-fi comedy thriller, with Jodie Whittaker and John Boyega. **1.05** Embarrassing Bodies. A man suffering from abscesses. (R) **2.05** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.20** Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.10** Deal or No Deal. (R)

CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **6.20** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.30** Bob the Builder. (R) **6.45** Ticky Toc. (R) **6.55** Zack and Quack. (R) **7.05** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.15** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.25** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.40** Little Princess. (R) **7.55** Pip Ahoy! (R) **8.05** Blaze and the Monster Machines. **8.30** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.45** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **9.00** Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) **9.15** Jelly Jam. (R) **9.30** LazyTown. (R) **9.55** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.30** The Championship: Football League Tonight. (R) **11.30** Goal Rush: Football League Tonight. (R) **12.30** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.30** Film: The Reef. (2006) Animated adventure, with the voice of Freddie Prinze Jr. **3.00** Film: Made of Honor. (2008) Romantic comedy, starring Patrick Dempsey and Michelle Monaghan. **5.00** Film: Monster-in-Law. (2005) Romantic comedy, starring Jennifer Lopez and Jane Fonda. **6.55** Now That's Funny! New series. A collection of internet-sourced videos with a family friendly hook, featuring laugh-out-loud unexpected personal moments now being shared with the world. **7.55** 5 News Weekend. **8.00** Capital One Cup Highlights. Liverpool v Manchester City. Kelly Cates presents action from the final at Wembley Stadium, as the sides battled it out for the first major domestic silverware of the campaign. While the Citizens have fared considerably better than the inconsistent Reds overall in the Premier League this term, Jürgen Klopp's men claimed a stunning 4-1 victory when the clubs met at Etihad Stadium in November. **9.00** Film: Grown Ups. (2010) Five friends reunite for the funeral of their high-school basketball coach. However, when they discover they have all acquired the problems and responsibilities that come with adulthood, they decide to spend a weekend at a lake house in a bid to recapture their childhood. Comedy, with Adam Sandler, Chris Rock, Kevin James, David Spade and Rob Schneider. **11.05** Film: The Switch. (2010) Comedy, with Jennifer Aniston. **1.00** SuperCasino. **3.10** The Holiday Airport: Sun, Sea & Scooters. **4.00** Wildlife SOS. (R) **4.50** Great Artists. (R) **5.20** Great Scientists. (R)

DIGITAL

**BBC Four**  
**7.00** Jigs & Wigs: The Extreme World of Irish Dancing **7.30** Northern Ballet: 1984 **9.00** Storyville: Bolshoi Babylon **10.15** Film: Populaire (2012) **12.10** Could We Survive a Mega-Tsunami? **1.10** Timeshift: Crime & Punishment – The Story of Capital Punishment – 10 Sounds of the Eighties **2.35** Singer-Songwriters at the BBC **3.35** Close  
**ITV2**  
**11.15** Take Me Out **12.30** Take Me Out – The Gossip **1.35** Film: Beethoven's 2nd (1993) **3.30** Film: Despicable Me 2 (2013) **5.20** Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway **6.50** Film: Back to the Future Part II (1989) **9.00** Ibiza Weekender **10.00** Meet the Family Gyps **10.30** Film: Shaun of the Dead (2004) **12.30** Film: Cirque du Freak: The Vampire's Assistant (2009) **2.30** Teleshopping  
**ITV3**  
**11.55** Wycliffe **1.00** The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes **2.05** Agatha Christie's Marple **6.00** Midsomer Murders **8.00** Barging Round Britain with John Sergeant **9.00** Caroline Quentin: A Passage Through India **10.00** Mrs Biggs **11.00** Film: Changeling (2008) **1.45** Film: The Rebel (1961) **3.30** May the Best House Win **5.10** Judge Judy **5.35** ITV3 Nightscreen  
**ITV4**  
**11.05** Counting Cars **12.00** The Classic Car Show **1.00** Film: Nevada Smith (1996) **3.40** Film: Blues Brothers 2000 (1998) **6.10** Film: Police Academy 5: Assignment Miami Beach (1988) **8.00** Premiership Rugby Union **9.10** Film: Texas Killing Fields (2011) **11.10** Film: How I Spent My Summer Vacation (2012) **1.00** Ax Men **2.00** Minder **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.30** Teleshopping  
**E4**  
**12.00** Couples Come Dine with Me **1.00** Film: St Trinian's (2007) **3.00** The Goldbergs **4.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **10.00** Tattoo Fixers **12.00** Rule Tube **1.10** The Intebweeners **2.10** The 100 **2.55** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **3.40** Hollywoods  
**Film4**  
**11.00** Battle of the Sexes (1959) **1.00** Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs (2009) **2.45** The Dark Crystal (1982) **4.30** Leap Year (2010) **6.30** Star Trek (2009) **9.00** Avatar (2009) A soldier uses a genetically engineered body to help an alien tribe fight off a corrupt mining corporation. James Cameron's sci-fi adventure, with Sam Worthington and Zoe Saldana. **12.10** Double Jeopardy (1999) **2.15** Waltz with Bashir (2008) **4.00** Close

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28 MAY • WAR HORSE • MOTOWN • TOM JONES STORY  
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SAT 26 MAR, 2, 30 APR, 21 MAR, 18 JUN, 19 JUL, 20 AUG, 5 SEP, 1 OCT

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MON 28 MAR, 18 APR, 30 MAY, 20 JUN, 18 JUL

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|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
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## FILM CHOICES

### MONDAY

**Hummingbird, Channel 5, 11pm**

A haunted special forces soldier returns to London from Afghanistan and assumes another man's identity, hoping to make a fresh start. He is drawn into the city's criminal underworld, where his skills prove valuable to the highest bidder, and plots revenge against the gangster who killed his girlfriend. Crime thriller, with Jason Statham and Agata Buzek. (2013)

### TUESDAY

**Abducted, Channel 5, 3.15pm**

A man wrongly imprisoned for murder is placed under the authority of a ruthless warden with political aspirations. Desperate to prove his innocence, the inmate escapes and abducts the official's wife. However, the situation takes an unexpected turn when the woman develops feelings for her kidnapper. Thriller, starring Sarah Wynter. (2007)

### WEDNESDAY

**Hit & Run, Channel 5, 3.15pm**

A lawyer is riding high after putting a notorious swindler behind bars, but has to look over her shoulder when a former cop threatens to blackmail her over a skeleton in her closet that could bring her career to an end. Thriller, starring Josie Davis, Sebastian Spence and Garry Chalk. (2015)



**Olympus Has Fallen, Thursday, Channel 5, 9pm**

### THURSDAY

**Olympus Has Fallen, Channel 5, 9pm**

A secret service operative is dismissed from duty after a tragic accident. As he prepares to leave his assignment, terrorists take control of the White House and hold the president hostage. The agent is trapped in the building, and uses his inside knowledge to rescue the head of state. Action thriller, starring Gerard Butler and Morgan Freeman. (2013)

### FRIDAY

**The Man with the Golden Gun, ITV, 11.10pm**

James Bond's investigation into the death of a world-renowned scientist working on solar technology draws him into a battle of wits with a stealthy assassin, who dispatches his victims with a golden bullet and has the British secret agent next in his sights. Spy adventure, starring Roger Moore. (1974)

# The heat is on Davina in blistering new series

She's made fitness DVDs and completed a gruelling 500-mile triathlon for Sport Relief in 2014, but in the first episode of her new series, Davina McCall is taking on an even more extreme sporting challenge and attempting to race a cheetah.

Luckily, she's not expecting to win – instead it's part of an experiment to find out how some extraordinary animals survive in some of planet's most hostile environments.

Over the coming weeks, Davina McCall: Life at the Extreme will see the Long Lost Family presenter travelling to the coldest, deepest and wettest places on Earth, where she will live alongside local people, scientists and the animals themselves. She begins with a journey to Namibia, one of the hottest countries in the world, where temperatures can reach 50 degrees centigrade, and years can pass without rainfall.

It's here that Davina encounters the cheetah, learning how it deals with the heat as it reaches speeds of up to 70 miles-per-hour.

She discovers that while the predators may be built for speed, they are not quite so impressive when it comes to endurance – if they don't catch their prey in the first 300-metres, they'll simply give up. By contrast, humans can sweat to keep their temperatures down, meaning they can run a marathon in a desert.

To help demonstrate these differences, Davina prepares to race one of the cats. She says: 'Obviously I'm not going to be as fast as a cheetah, but I want to compare how the heat affects us both, when we're running... My heart is pounding, I'm quite scared. Maybe this is not such a good idea after all...'

That's not the only nerve-wracking challenge the presenter undertakes, as she later travels to Erindi Game Reserve, spanning 700-square kilometres of Namibia's interior.

Its home to over 10,000 animals, most of which seek refuge in the shade during the hottest hours of the day – but Davina is more concerned with what they get up to at night, as she's going to be camping

out in the open with local ranger Henco Bantjes.

Davina says: 'Let me assure you, this is not something I'd normally do... I've never camped in the wild before, so I've no idea why Henco thinks I'm going to make it through the night.'

It turns out she was right to be anxious as their camp receives a nocturnal visit from a lion. Luckily, the morning finds her in one piece – and ready to take on the stage of her journey, which sees her meeting the San Bushpeople of the Kalahari Desert, who are some of the last hunter-gatherers on the planet.

Davina joins them for a spot of foraging, but the heat soon takes its toll. After two hours of foraging, I feel like every droplet of water has been sucked from my body... my mouth's so dry, I feel like my top lip's just getting stuck.'

But will the presenter find the strength to carry on – or will we discover that the next instalment of the four part series has been renamed Davina McCall: Life at Home on the Sofa?



**Davina McCall: Life at the Extreme, Monday, ITV, 9pm**

## BEST OF THE REST

### MONDAY

**Too Much TV**

**BBC2, 6.30pm**

New series. Magazine show devoted to the small screen, featuring guides to what's on as well as insight, opinions and the chance for viewers to catch watercooler moments they may have missed, with Aled Jones and Sara Cox presenting the first edition. Emma Bunton and Rufus Hound are also among the revolving team of hosts introducing news, reviews and previews of the latest programmes and chatting to celebrity guests, while comedians Fummi Omotayo and Susan Calman will act as roving reporters. Plus, the team delves into the archives for a selection of TV's greatest moments.

### TUESDAY

**Back in Time for the Weekend**

**BBC2, 8pm**

The Ashby-Hawkins family enters the 1990s, a decade where new technology starts to dominate their leisure time. Twelve year-old Seth finally gets his hands on a Game Boy and games console, while the arrival of the internet and a mobile phone marks the start of how many spend their spare time now. Steph and Rob try out line-dancing, and fitness star Mr Motivator puts them through their

paces. Tommy Walsh and Linda Barker also turn up to help the family give the house and garden a 90s makeover. As ever, Giles Coren is your host

### WEDNESDAY

**Raised by Wolves**

**Channel 4, 10pm**

New series. The comedy written by Caitlin and Caroline Moran returns. Set on a Wolverhampton council estate, the story is a modern-day reimagining of their childhood. In the first edition, Della turns off the household Wi-Fi to save money, forcing a desperate Germaine to go to the local library, where she has an unexpected romantic encounter with a former enemy. Meanwhile, with Grampy sleeping in her coat cupboard, Della resolves to take a trip to the 'Poor Woman's Ikea' – or a skip – to look for supplies.

### Secrets of the Sauna

**Channel 4, 10.35pm**

Candid documentary offering a glimpse at the secretive world of gay saunas, gaining access to an establishment in Nottingham where men go to meet strangers

for sex. The programme meets people from a wide variety of backgrounds who frequent the sauna, from teachers and plumbers to Tory councillors, as well as hearing from the staff who work there, including owners Joe and John, who have been a couple for over 30 years. The programme provides a rarely before seen snapshot of gay culture, in a world where only men are welcome.

### THURSDAY

**Pompeii: New Secrets Revealed**

**with Mary Beard**

**BBC1, 9pm**

The renowned classicist and TV historian explores what life was like 2,000 years ago in Pompeii, one of the world's most extraordinary and iconic archaeological sites. She goes behind the scenes of the Great Pompeii Project, where restoration teams have gradually removed the layers of time and



**Bear Grylls: Mission Survive, Thursday, ITV, 9pm**

deterioration from the frescoes and mosaics of houses closed to the public for decades, and with the help of point-cloud scanning technology, Pompeii is seen and explained like never before.

### Bear Grylls: Mission Survive

**ITV, 9pm**

Bear Grylls is no stranger to taking VIPs out into the wild – in December, we saw him head out on a ramble across Alaska with President Barack Obama. Now, he's introducing us to a group of seven celebrities who face a challenging expedition in the South African bush, where they must learn to navigate difficult terrain, build shelters, make fire and eat the food that nature provides. From being suspended by rope from a helicopter to eating mopane worms and navigating through scorched plains, the stars face a range of tough tasks and Bear himself eliminates one of them after each challenge.

### FRIDAY

**NCIS: New Orleans**

**Channel 5, 9pm**

A blogger who devoted his energies to exposing corruption within government is found dead, having recently cited some Navy Seals as overstepped the mark in their use of force.

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Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 7  | 16 | 8  | 4  | 13 | 1  | 14 | 17 | 2  | 26 | 5  | 6  |
| 1  |    | 12 |    | 16 |    | 4  |    | 16 |    |    | 4  |
| 6  |    | 1  | 4  | 8  | 16 | 25 | 12 | 5  | 8  |    | 16 |
| 24 | 18 | 26 |    |    | 10 |    |    |    |    | 2  | 12 |
| 26 |    | 6  |    | 12 | 22 | 14 | 11 |    | 26 |    | 12 |
|    | 7  | 1  | 18 | 22 |    | 7  |    | 9  | 1  | 16 | 15 |
|    |    |    |    | 5  |    | 4  |    | 16 |    |    |    |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 5  | 4  |    | 5  | 20 | 12 | 7  | 21 |    |
| 26 |    | 14 |    | 10 | 4  | 1  | 16 |    | 1  |    | 23 |
| 1  | 16 | 11 | 4  |    | 11 |    |    | 12 | 5  | 5  |    |
| 12 | 3  |    | 8  | 6  | 11 | 26 | 4  | 1  | 6  |    | 18 |
| 19 |    | 18 | 12 |    |    | 1  |    | 16 |    |    | 19 |
| 9  | 1  | 4  | 12 | 1  | 14 | 5  | 6  |    | 11 | 19 | 18 |

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| T | G | R | J | D | E | X | H | O | Z | Y | I | U |
| C | V | L | Q | K | A | S | B | W | N | F | P | M |

|    |    |
|----|----|
| 1  | 14 |
| 2  | 15 |
| 3  | 16 |
| 4  | 17 |
| 5  | 18 |
| 6  | 19 |
| 7  | 20 |
| 8  | 21 |
| 9  | 22 |
| 10 | 23 |
| 11 | 24 |
| 12 | 25 |
| 13 | 26 |

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

- 1. Gift bestowed on Bligh's craft (6)
- 4. Softly scolded for what the gossip did (6)
- 9. Is willing to take the consequences, as the conductor does (5,3,5)
- 10. Intent on changing rates round the north-east (7)
- 11. French name given to present-day wanderer (5)
- 12. The right current measures for dishonest practices (5)
- 14. The first of the singers to deal successfully with the range (5)
- 18. Makes a call for jewellery (5)
- 19. Makes a tape for some minutes (7)
- 21. Money regularly available to the ranker (7,6)
- 22. Wild herd round us stampeded (6)
- 23. Demure fashions by the first of the tailoresses (6)

Down

- 1. Strike for a place to eat (6)
- 2. Indefinite restrictions produce doubts (13)
- 3. Such buds are sensitive to the consumer (5)
- 5. Could this describe Marconi? In a way (7)
- 6. How one with a definite aim acts (2,4,7)
- 7. Make plain English of French cipher (6)
- 8. Ashen-faced when we are about to strike (5)
- 13. The correspondent pays it a long time after an appointment (7)
- 15. Decent support supplied with some hesitation (6)
- 16. Short, broken fibre (5)
- 17. A view of unusual pacts about the East (6)
- 20. Piece of poetry is hypocrisy and nothing more (5)

|    |   |   |    |    |    |   |    |
|----|---|---|----|----|----|---|----|
| 1  | 2 | 3 |    | 4  | 5  | 6 | 7  |
|    |   |   |    | 8  |    |   |    |
| 9  |   |   |    |    |    |   |    |
| 10 |   |   |    |    | 11 |   |    |
|    |   |   |    |    |    |   |    |
| 12 |   |   | 13 |    | 14 |   |    |
| 15 |   |   |    | 16 |    |   | 17 |
| 18 |   |   |    | 19 | 20 |   |    |
| 21 |   |   |    |    |    |   |    |
| 22 |   |   |    |    | 23 |   |    |

Quick Clues:

Across

- 1. Thin gruel (6)
- 4. Span (6)
- 9. Listless (13)
- 10. Odd (7)
- 11. Depression (5)
- 12. Insurgent (5)
- 14. Storehouse (5)
- 18. Commerce (5)
- 19. Fidgety (7)
- 21. Exuberance (6,7)
- 22. Signify (6)
- 23. Dog-house (6)

Down

- 1. Spatter (6)
- 2. Imprisonment (13)
- 3. Memorise (5)
- 5. Remainder (7)
- 6. Decay (13)
- 7. Enrol (6)
- 8. Vacillate (5)
- 13. Graceful (7)
- 15. Thread (6)
- 16. Flagrant (5)
- 17. Ship (6)
- 20. Glow (5)

Sudoku

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 8 |   |   | 4 |   | 9 |   |   |
|   |   | 6 |   | 9 |   |   |   |   |
|   |   | 9 |   | 1 |   |   |   | 4 |
|   | 6 | 4 |   | 5 |   | 8 | 3 |   |
| 7 |   |   | 8 |   | 3 |   |   | 1 |
|   | 9 | 8 |   | 4 |   | 6 |   |   |
| 6 |   |   | 3 |   | 7 |   | 9 |   |
|   |   |   | 1 |   | 3 |   |   |   |
| 1 | 9 |   |   |   |   | 5 | 2 |   |

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 5 | 8 | 9 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 7 |
| 4 | 3 | 9 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 1 | 2 |
| 6 | 1 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 9 | 5 | 8 |
| 9 | 7 | 3 | 8 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 6 |
| 1 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 9 | 7 | 8 | 3 |
| 8 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 3 | 9 | 4 | 1 |
| 3 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 4 |
| 7 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 9 |
| 5 | 9 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 8 |

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Lose patience; 7 Panic; 8 Trail; 9 Hot; 10 Pointless; 11 Narrow; 12 Scaps; 15 Supporter; 17 Roc; 18 Dandy; 19 On the; 21 Cheer-leaders. Down: 1 Left-hand side; 2 Pan; 3 Tactic; 4 Estate car; 5 Chase; 6 Close secrets; 7 Peter; 10 Prototype; 13 Agree; 14 Stroll; 16 Pinch; 20 Tea. QUICK - Across: 1 Apprehensive; 7 Deter; 8 Arson; 9 Ebb; 10 Segregate; 11 Tiring; 12 Detour; 15 Ceaseless; 17 Dip; 18 Title; 19 Demur; 21 Prescription. Down: 1 Authenticity; 2 Eat; 3 Enrage; 4 Shapeless; 5 Vista; 6 Interruption; 7 Debar; 10 Senseless; 13 Order; 14 Vendor; 16 Alter; 20 Map.

Quiz

- 1. Which author was married from 1965-83 to writer Elizabeth Jane Howard?
- 2. Who directed the film Babette's Feast?
- 3. Which explorer led the youth project Operation Drake?
- 4. When is the feast day of St. Brigid?
- 5. What nationality was the clown Charlie Cairoli?
- 6. Who won a Best Actress Oscar for It Happened One Night?
- 7. Which murderer was murdered in Walpole Prison, Massachusetts, in 1973?
- 8. Who wrote the songs Camptown Races and Beautiful Dreamer?
- 9. In which state was evangelist Billy Graham born?
- 10. Who patented the first sewing machine?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 The Hague; 2 Painting; 3 13; 4 Strait of Messina; 5 Uganda; 6 A goldlike alloy of copper and zinc; 7 Thomas Stamford Raffles; 8 Self-boiling; 9 Portugal; 10 Hong Kong. Niner: GROUNDSEL

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

628 gives a sailor,  
43281 gives a protector,  
39578 gives an official.

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

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Grilled Spiced Paneer

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Pork Belly on Mustard Mash

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Cheeseboard

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Historic hideaway – Reichenstein Castle



Mittlere Bridge in Basel, Switzerland. St Martin's Church can be seen overlooking the houses



Crew on board the ship so friendly, like bar manager Farhan

# Set sail for trip of a lifetime and believe me, it's smiles all the way

**BAR manager Farhan is juggling three vodka bottles to Lou Bega's Mambo No. 5. There's loud clapping and cheering as he expertly lands one on his forearm.**

A hilarious sketch then follows when the maitre d' dons a blonde wig to play the part of a receptionist dealing with a guest reluctant to pay their bill.

We're watching a show put on by the crew of MS Inspire and dubbed 'the best show on the Rhine and Moselle' – and this 13-day luxury Tauc cruise voyage is arguably the best cruise on the Rhine and Moselle.

Yes, it's all aboard for the trip of a lifetime that takes in Switzerland, France, Germany, Luxembourg and The Netherlands. Embarkation is at Three Countries Corner in Basel, the spot where France, Germany and Switzerland meet.

By Heather Loat

Basel is Switzerland's third largest city and while not picture postcard a guided walking tour reveals a city steeped in culture and history.

What makes this Tauc cruise so special is the entire crew. Nothing is too much trouble. At capacity the ship accommodates 130 passengers compared to other riverboats of the same size which cater for 190 passengers.

It means you experience a much more intimate atmosphere on a Tauc trip. With a lower overall capacity Tauc is also able to outfit each vessel with a far higher percentage of suites, designed with space and comfort in mind. Ours featured a floor to ceiling balcony window through which we could gaze at turreted castles and gothic churches.

But with so many on shore excursions to places including Heidelberg, Cochem and Germany's oldest city Trier, there's little time for luxuriating.

The fashionable spa town of Baden-Baden, famed for its bathing, is on the itinerary or you can visit the Kurhaus casino described by Marlene Dietrich as 'the most beautiful in the world'.

## Quaint

Then meander along quaint, cobbled streets and sample a slice of Black Forest cake named after the region.

Back on board and we are treated to a performance of Alsatian Folkloric dancing. Then we find ourselves linking arms with our fellow passengers and singing eins, zwei, drei, hoopa!

We feast like kings too at Reichenstein Castle, a medieval fortress overlooking the

Rhine. The castle is exclusively ours for the evening, to explore before a private dinner in the grounds.

It's a slightly more bumpy ride when I get on a bike at the Hoge Veluwe National Park, near Arnhem, in The Netherlands. We are in the grounds of the visitor centre from where it's a short ride to the Kröller-Müller Museum – which houses the second largest Van Gogh collection in the world.

The excursion to this most fascinating of European cities begins with a visit to the Rijksmuseum where masterpieces by Rembrandt are among treasures on show.

The highlight, however, is a boat trip on the canals which Amsterdam is famed for.

Wine, beer and even Champagne – the drinks flow thanks to unlimited complimentary beverages. All-inclusive means no extras for shore excursions, gratuities or airport transfers. So much to enjoy!

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**A FAMILY home in Quantock Close, Halesowen, is in a quiet cul-de-sac, for sale through Hicks Hadley at £299,950.**

Having gas central heating and double glazing, it has an entrance hall, a living room, a dining room with patio doors to rear garden, kitchen with an integrated electric cooker. Bedroom one has an en suite shower room, there are three further bedrooms and a bathroom. There is a garage, off-road parking for several cars and a mature rear garden. Contact Hicks Hadley on 0121 5856667 or visit [www.hickshadley.com](http://www.hickshadley.com)



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Halesowen Office Lettings & Property Management



**NEW**

**QUARRY BANK, Thorns Road £895 pcm+Fees**  
A superb extended traditional detached home close to Merry Hill and local train stations. Featuring a large lounge, separate dining room, country style kitchen with range cooker, 3 double bedrooms, walk in shower room, extensive rear garden with ample parking and driveway to the front. EPC: TBC



**HALESOWEN, Summerfields Avenue £795 pcm+Fees**  
Ideally located in Hurst Green, close to popular school, motorway access and commutable to Birmingham, is this lovely semi-detached home, briefly comprising of: 2 large bedrooms and 1 single box room, large rear reception room, front reception room, modern fitted kitchen with white goods, family bathroom with shower, front and rear gardens, driveway parking and garage, unfurnished. EPC: E



**HALESOWEN, Nimmings Road £650 pcm+Fees**  
Large end terraced property close to Blackheath Town Centre & Rowley Regis Train Station. This property features lounge, new fitted kitchen/dining area, 3 bedrooms, ensuite shower room, house bathroom with shower, central heating, double glazing, front & rear gardens with garage to rear of property and driveway parking for up to 3 cars. EPC: D



**ROWLEY REGIS, Spring Vale Road £650 pcm+Fees**  
An opportunity to acquire a well maintained traditional three bedroom detached property situated in a popular residential location in a quiet cul-de-sac close to local schools, amenities and road links. Comprises of a large living room, fitted kitchen with a double range cooker, downstairs w.c, 2 double & 1 single bedroom/study, Bathroom with shower, driveway/garage. A lovely property, not to be missed! MINIMUM CONTRACT 12 MONTHS. EPC: D



**HALESOWEN, Hunnington Crescent £625 pcm+Fees**  
Recently redecorated and carpeted. This huge 3 bedroom town house has had a full redecoration, carpets and boiler. This house will not stay around for long as its so close to Halesowen Town Centre. Featuring 3 bedrooms, a large lounge with stunning views, bathroom with shower, driveway and garage parking, downstairs wc, small low maintenance rear garden. EPC: D



**HALESOWEN, Holt Road £600 pcm+Fees**  
An immaculately presented mid terraced property in a convenient location for shops, buses and motorway links. The property features a homely lounge, dining room, luxury refitted shower room, 2 double bedrooms, and 2 single bedrooms, gas central heating, double glazing, small rear court yard garden, on road parking. EPC: D



**NEW**

**HALESOWEN, Wright Street £595 pcm+Fees**  
A stunning unfurnished or furnished to suit 2 bedroom cottage style mid terrace house which has recently been refurbished to a very high standard comprising of: Lounge with feature fireplace, fabulous fitted kitchen, 2 good size bedrooms, bathroom with shower, rear garden, new gas central heating system. On road parking in this very quiet location central to Halesowen. Not to be missed! EPC: E



**HALESOWEN, Spring Street £595 pcm+Fees**  
An unfurnished semi detached house a short distance from local shops, number 9 bus route and Colley Lane Primary School. Featuring 3 bedrooms, a large lounge with stunning views, bathroom with shower, driveway and garage parking, double glazing and garage and driveway parking, front and rear gardens. EPC: TBC



**HALESOWEN, Chiltern Close £595 pcm+Fees**  
A lovely unfurnished or furnished to suit 2 bedroom terrace property on the popular 'Squirrels' estate. Featuring a spacious living room, fitted kitchen, conservatory, 2 double bedrooms, refitted shower room, gas central heating, private rear garden with decking, parking area. MINIMUM CONTRACT 12 MONTHS. EPC: D



**NEW**

**LYE, STOURBRIDGE, Overman Close £575 pcm+Fees**  
Beautifully presented and not to be missed! Located at the end of a cul-de-sac, this 2 double bedroom modern mid terrace property features a spacious lounge, dining kitchen with white goods and integrated electric oven and separate gas hob, downstairs WC, family bathroom with shower, wardrobes in the master bedroom and an enclosed rear garden. Also benefiting from off road parking, gas central heating and double glazing. EPC: TBC



**NEW**

**HALESOWEN, Willetts Drive £575 pcm+Fees**  
An immaculately presented mid terrace property situated within a sought after and convenient location. This house features living room, modern refitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom and an easy to maintain rear garden with views of Client. Also benefiting from gas central heating, double glazing and garage and driveway parking. EPC: G



**ROWLEY REGIS, Habberley Road £575 pcm+Fees**  
This unfurnished mid terraced home is located close to local shops, and minutes away from J2 of the M5. Briefly comprising of 3 bedrooms, spacious lounge, fitted kitchen, utility room, house bathroom with shower, double glazing, gas central heating, rear garden. On road parking. EPC: TBC



**DUDLEY, Attingham Drive £495 pcm+Fees**  
A part furnished 2nd floor apartment close to Dudley Town Centre. Featuring an open plan lounge/dining kitchen, 2 bedrooms, bathroom with a shower, electric storage heating, double glazing, alarm, allocated parking. EPC: TBC



**QUINTON, College Road £475 pcm+Fees**  
Large flat available above a shop close to direct bus links to Birmingham comprising of lounge, fitted kitchen with oven/hob, 2 large double bedrooms plus extra study/storage room, white bathroom with shower, electric plug in heating. Available Now. EPC: G



**HALESOWEN, Narrow Lane £475 pcm+Fees**  
Ground floor flat in great location, comprising lounge/diner with laminate flooring, fitted kitchen with white goods, double glazing, 2 double bedrooms, neutral decor, electric heating, communal gardens and a parking space. Offered unfurnished. Available from 1st March. EPC: TBC



**NEW**

**NETHERTON, Mousesweet Lane £475 pcm+Fees**  
A modern style furnished to suit ground floor apartment in superbly convenient location in a quiet cul-de-sac featuring: entrance hallway, lounge with electric fire, fitted kitchen with appliances, 1 double bedroom, bathroom suite with shower, rear access to private courtyard, driveway for 2 cars, gas central heating, double glazing. EPC: D



**NEW**

**ROWLEY REGIS, Midhill Drive £475 pcm+Fees**  
A beautifully presented part furnished and located in a quiet road, is this split level semi detached bungalow. Featuring 1 gallery bedroom with walk in wardrobe and bed, downstairs shower room, modern fitted kitchen, double glazing, rear garden, driveway parking. EPC: E



**CRADLEY HEATH, Elbow Street £450 pcm+Fees**  
Up for rent is the well presented ground floor apartment, situated close to Old Hill Train Station and local shops, briefly comprising of: 1 double bedroom, fitted kitchen with appliances, modern bathroom with shower, electric heating, double glazing, 1 allocated parking space. EPC: E



**NEW**

**HALESOWEN, Pippin Avenue £425 pcm+Fees**  
An unfurnished, modern, spacious ground floor flat on this popular estate and briefly comprising: open plan living room/ fitted kitchen, 1 double bedroom, bathroom with shower, electric storage heating, full double glazing, parking space. A minimum contract of 12 months is required. EPC: D



**NEW**

**KIDDERMINSTER, Bewdley Road £350 pcm+Fees**  
A fully re-furnished 1st floor studio apartment comprising of A combined lounge/bedroom, fitted kitchen with electric cooker, white bathroom suite with shower. Gas central heating, double glazing. EPC: TBC



**LYE, High Street £330 pcm+Fees**  
Located in the centre of Lye at Lye Cross. This 2nd floor flat above shops features a large lounge, kitchen, 1 double bedroom, bathroom with shower, and is available immediately. EPC: TBC

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BEARWOOD

£290,000

MUST BE VIEWED



### ABBEY ROAD, SMETHWICK

EXTENDED home overlooking WARLEY WOODS park with GARAGE & driveway. 15ft dining room & 17ft lounge leading to EXTENDED 14ft kitchen. 3 GOOD size bedrooms & bathroom with white suite. Lawn rear garden. GCH & UPVC DG fitted. EPC rating: F

BEARWOOD

£219,950

NEW



### APSLEY ROAD, OLDBURY

MODERNISED family home with 15ft CONSERVATORY & DRIVEWAY. 26ft lounge diner & REFITTED quality kitchen. Master bedroom with FITTED furniture, 2 further bedrooms & REFITTED bathroom with white suite. Blockpaved driveway to front. Rear garden havign SOUTHERLY aspect. GCH, UPVC DG & new roof in 2011. EPC rating: D

QUINTON

£174,950

NEW



### BRISTNALL HALL ROAD, OLDBURY

SPACIOUS, Well presented, THOUGHTFULLY IMPROVED, DOUBLE FRONTED, intermediate family home, convenient position, having GCH & DG, with SPACIOUS THROUGH LOUNGE, dining/sitting room, re-fitted kitchen, 3 GOOD SIZED BEDROOMS, 2 bathrooms, off road parking, Pleasant garden. MUST BE VIEWED. EPC TBC.

BEARWOOD

£154,950

NEW



### QUINTON ROAD WEST, QUINTON

NO UPWARD CHAIN - Large 4 BED FAMILY HOME in need of some modernisation. 23ft lounge diner, 12ft breakfast kitchen & D/S bathroom. Lean to verandha to rear. 4 bedrooms & WC on 1st floor. DRIVEWAY to front. Garden to rear with PRIVATE aspect. GCH & majority DG fitted. EPC rating: D

QUINTON

£139,950

NEW



### CARTWRIGHT GARDENS, OLDBURY

CONSIDERABLY IMPROVED and well presented, semi detached home in CUL-DE-SAC position, with SUPER RE-FITTED KITCHEN (having integrated appliances), RE-FITTED BATHROOM, 16' lounge, 3 bedrooms, OFF ROAD PARKING, and pleasant LOW MAINTENANCE rear garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC rating C.

BEARWOOD

£138,950

NEW



### REGINALD ROAD, SMETHWICK

CONSIDERABLY IMPROVED and well presented home, HANDY FOR LOCAL SHOPS, with dg & gch, 2 reception rooms, REFITTED kitchen, 2 DOUBLE bedrooms, REFITTED bathroom, pleasant low maintenance rear garden. MUST BE VIEWED. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC tbc.

BEARWOOD

£129,950

NEW



### CLENT VIEW RD, BARTLEY GREEN

UNFURNISHED - AVAILABLE NOW - Well presented & spacious semi-det home. 11ft breakfast kitchen & 16ft lounge diner. 3 bedrooms & REFITTED bathroom. DRIVEWAY to front. OPEN ASPECT garden to rear. UPVC DG & GCH. NO DSS, NO PETS, NO SMOKERS. EPC Rating: TBC - Subject to admin fee of £100 per tenant.

QUINTON

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BEARWOOD

£68,000

NEW



### RIDGACRE RD WEST, QUINTON

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QUINTON

£625 PCM

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2011 Willerby Westmoreland 6 Berth. Central Heating & Double Glazed. Immaculate throughout, hardly used. Buyer to remove from site.  
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### what's on

### antique fairs

**PENKRISE ANTIQUES & Collectors Market**, Thursday 3rd March 9AM - 3PM. Penkridge Market, ST19 5AP. Free entrance. Free parking. Tel 07947271947

**SHENSTON ANTIQUES & Collectors Fair**, Sunday 6th March. 10am - 3pm. Burns Road, Shenstone WS14 0LT. £1 Entrance. Free parking. Tel 07947271947

3

## Home & Services

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**TWO ARM CHAIRS** Three wardrobes, free, must collect themselves.  
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**TWO ARMCHAIRS** three wardrobes, free, must collect themselves.  
07446 233883.

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2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.  
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

## KIND HOMES WANTED

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**ARCHIE** 9mth border Collie  
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**6 Property**

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7

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8

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Craig Bryan, Regional Sales Manager  
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**£4,800 ono.**  
**07840 118706.**

PEUGEOT 407 56 reg, silver, good condition, MoT January, Diesel Estate, glass roof, tow bar. £2,200. 01902 862198.



TOYOTA YARIS TSPIRIT

2011, 31,964 miles, grey, abs, electric windows, air bag, air con, fsh, MoT, metallic paint, central locking, pas, alloys, stereo, navigation system.  
**£5,250 ono.**  
**07815 776523.**

VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 1.6 petrol, 2006, 5-dr, half leather interior, 12 months MoT, FSH, champagne gold, 93,000 miles, very clean and reliable.  
**£1,990.**  
**07933 323936.**

VW FOX 09, 53,000 miles, 12 months MoT, immaculate, in yellow, lady owner, £2,495 ono. 01384 565140 or 07761 081577.

X TYPE JAGUAR  
53 reg., 2.0, manual, silver, MoT September 2016, one previous OAP owner, genuine 37,600 miles, full cream leather, two keys, service history, AC, CL, etc., beautiful condition.  
**£2,950.**  
**01902 620909.**

**cars under £1500**

BMW 118 SE T reg, FSH, AC, alloys, heated seats, 93,000 miles, metallic blue, must be seen. £950 ono. 01746 781718.

CHEVROLET LACETTI. January 2008, 5 door, silver, 46,552 miles, 8 months MoT. £995 ono. 07854 938883 or 07998 991971.

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

FIAT PANDA ACTIVE. 2007, 4Dr, 1100cc, long MoT, recent tyres and exhaust, £895. 07950 398750.

FIAT PUNTO 1.2 04 reg, 77k miles only, full MoT, immaculate condition throughout, lady owner, £825. 07732 475512.

FORD ESCORT 1997, 88,000 miles, needs TLC or project. £225 ono. 07496 957676.

FORD FIESTA 1.6 TDCI, 06 reg, silver 3dr, 10 months MoT, excellent condition, £1,295. 07498 131071.

FORD FOCUS 1.8 Ghia, diesel, 52 reg, long MoT, FSH, good condition. £990 ono. 07903 177567.

FORD FOCUS 2.0GHIA 56reg 74,000 miles, silver, abs, electric windows, air bag, vpc air con, long MoT, 5 door. £1,499. 07879 403302.

FORD MONDEO 2 litre LX 02, A/C, CD, alloys, good condition, MoT June 2016, serviced, 2 owners, 49k miles. £999 ono. 07887 593617.

KIA RIO LX. 2001, 108,000 miles, silver, MoT till Dec 2016, 1343cc, some body work damage, £250 ono. 01902 741724.

PEUGEOT 106 independent. 2003, 72,000 miles, MoT, lady owner, good condition. £500. 01902 851169.

PEUGEOT 307 1.6 DIESEL HDI. 2005, 5-dr, MoT April, Drives well. £995. o.n.o. Wolverhampton 07939 797979.

PEUGEOT 307S. 2007, 74k, Black FSH. Excellent condition. New Shape. £1,500. o.n.o. Telephone 07913 981460.

RENAULT CLIO 1.2, 54 plate, 10 months MoT, alloy wheels, very good condition. £500 ono. 0121 530 9041.

SUZUKI IGNIS 1.3, 52 reg, 5dr, full MoT, drives like new, very low mileage, black, very clean car, £375. Call 07540 474822.

classic cars

WANTED, CLASSIC Cars. Private cash buyer. Instant cash settlement. Any age. Any condition. 01630 652993 or 07773 462797.

commercial vehicles

LAND ROVER DEFENDER 110 TD5, 2003, 115,000 miles, MoT, one owner, very clean, £6,000. Telephone 07768 841443.

## driving tuition



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Mini, Clio, Corsa, Fiesta, Punto, 207, KA, Fiat 500, Yaris.

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01902 580065

www.homersdrivingschool.co.uk

## scrap vehicles

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Spares Always Available  
0121 557 0800 or 0121 557 0400. Evening 07813 184611  
Oldbury Area.

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Top prices paid. HP settled.  
Buyer could call.

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CROWN MOTORS guarantee best price for your unwanted cars/vans. 07903 549849, 01902 597035.

9

Local Information

public & legal notices

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES

For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to

Marie Hogg on 01902 713146 or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk

(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

10

Personals

personal

AT MANYANA Gentlemen's Club, 5\* customer rated Mon-Fri 10-3pm. Sat-Sun: 10-11pm. 0121 472 7281.

GENTLEMAN 5FT 5 74 years, wishes to meet lady 50-74 for friendship, possible relationship.

Photo appreciated. (Returned)  
Box Number P20238, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

general

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

PENN CEMETERY Grave space. Please call: 01902 750899.

PENN CEMETERY. Wolverhampton. Burial plot required. Please call 07757 706826.

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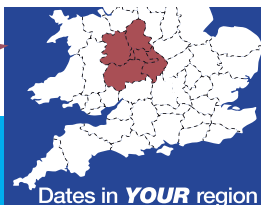
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## Single Women

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

**46YR** old Asian lady looking for friendship maybe more with white male 50+. Text only to Mailbox: 5404865

**KATIE** 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+ Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3002 Box 419673

**TRISH**, 45, tall slim young/good looking GSOH, professional, solvent, OHAC, affectionate and loves TLC. WLTm male who also likes to be in a loving relationship, 39-50yrs. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421137

**SUE**, 38yrs, passionate, broadminded and feisty seeks discreet fun with Mr Wrong! Tel: 0906 515 3034 Box 413007

**LOUISE** 35s, loves meals out, WLTm talish, considered mature male who is not frightened to express themselves and enjoy life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421135

**JANE**, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 3010 Box: 409715

**ANGELA**, 42, green eyed dark haired feminine lady who enjoys walking and keeping fit, seeking lonely kind gentleman for good times and more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421115

**LUCY** first time advertiser, 32yrs, tall slim blonde airline worker, seeks discreet gent, any status for casual fling. Looks/age unimportant. Tel: 0906 515 3026 Box: 420237

**MARGARET** 39, dark hair/eyed attractive petite divorcee, n/a to area looking to start a new life. WLTm child friendly male, single dad welcome. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421129

**SOPHIA** young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. Tel: 0906 515 3018 Box: 413399

**ANNA**, 41, new to single life seeking caring professional male for no strings fun, attention and laughter. Life is too short, lets enjoy it! Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421127

**KAREN**, 42yrs, attractive and broadminded, seeks no strings fun with chap any age, must be discreet. Tel: 0906 515 3038 Box: 407953

**HONEST** sincere affectionate female, 48, OHAC, WLTm child friendly male/single dad for chats, laughs and more. Any age. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421111

**IM** Chloe, 33yrs old, sensual blonde lady with fabulous figure, workaholic, seeking new circle of men for casual fun. Looks/age/status unimportant must be fun and openminded. Tel: 0906 515 3042 Box 420261

**SUSANNAH**, 48, curly female, romantic, warm and cuddly, seeks similar kind male for a loving relationship with lots of cuddles and kisses. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417341

**ROSIE**, 43yrs, bored and lonely. I don't get out much but would like to meet a nice chap, married or single, fun only pls. Text only Box 4078225

**MICHELLE** 39yr old nurse, slim, petite, blonde, blue eyes, looking to enjoy life with similar romantic, caring guy. Single dad welcome. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420791

**JENNI**, hairdresser, brunette, caring and fun. WLTm chap any age, must be discreet with car. I have a nice home to meet in. Text only Box: 4139156

**DEBS** lonely 40's female with no ties. GSOH, N/S, loves the simple things in life looking for similar soul mate to be happy together with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420729

**KAREN**, young brunette, 42yrs loves men of all ages and sizes but must make me laugh. I am married with open marriage. Text only Box: 4202027

**JULIE**, 47, blonde brown eyes, size 12, varied interests, loves cuddling, kissing and showing affection, seeks similar energetic male friend for TLC. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420357

**JANE**, 47, voluptuous female, long hair, brown eyes, generous curves, would love to spend cosy nights in with that special male. Age/looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417985

**SAMANTHA** pretty brunette, very busty 36, intelligent, independent with a real lust for life, seeks big-hearted stocky male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420599

**YVONNE**, single mum, happy with life, but would like to meet someone to share fun times with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420839

**48** year old, slim, green eyed female, n/s, likes meals out, local theatre, live local bands, nights in, looking for a gentleman, 48-52, for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420869

**FEMALE**, 37, new to area, would like to meet nice trustworthy man, for friendship hopefully more. Text only to mailbox: 532985

**CAROL** 37 attractive slim blonde, curves in all the right places, nice personality, good company, looking for caring man for fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420572

**BEV** 30yr old curvy attractive female, likes music, travel, animals, cosy nights in front of a log fire, looking for affectionate male for good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420715

**SUE**, 46, confident professional, sporty/active, seeking sensitive interesting guy for intimate evenings in with great food and conversations. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420701

**CAROLINE**, 42yrs, slim attractive blonde, varied interests and solvent, WLTm honest male of any age. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420685

**CHRIS**, 67, brunette, cuddly, WLTm caring, kind gentleman, for days out, meals out, walks etc and for just being together. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420667

**LILY**, genuine lady looking for a genuine man. I like cosy nights in and am a smoker. Text only mailbox no: 5372466

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**TRISH**, 44, tall slim young/good looking GSOH, professional, solvent, OHAC, affectionate and loves TLC, WLTm male who also likes to be in a loving relationship, 39-50yrs. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420601

**MADDIE** extremely passionate female 37, seeks reliable male to enjoy the finer things in life and tactile relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420563

**CHRIS**, 40, attractive slim sophisticated redhead, seeking male 30-50's to relax with and get to know. Discretion assured. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420491

**SALLY**, 46, slim attractive feisty redhead, intelligent, easygoing, WLTm similar male for friendship and more, looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420475

**LOUISE**, 47, youthful looking female looking for spontaneous male to put some love and life back into life. Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420445

**ALEXA** 49 - slim, attractive, long-haired music loving female, with many interests including dining out, the arts, photography WLTm similar male. Text only to Mailbox no: 5345662

**CHLOE** pretty single female 36yrs, dark hair/eyes, slim build, very lonely and looking for reliable discreet male for mutual companionship maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420359

**ANN**, 38, very attractive female, N/S, positive attitude to life, WLTm similar kind male with a lot of get up and go for romance and fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420355

**JACKIE** lonely and looking for male company, 48-55, needs a bit of love and affection? Then I'm your girl. Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418169

**SARAH**, curvaceous brunette, 35, passionate nature, solvent, OHAC, WLTm date again, looking for male to take me out. Looks/Age unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420207

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

**LYN**, 43, divorced very lonely single mum, young looking, slim, attractive, WLTm similar male for companionship. Age/looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418795

**KELLY** young attractive vivacious 48yr old lady, loves good food, cosy nights in/out, holidays etc, WLTm male for mutual companionship Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420195

**CATHY**, 42, good looking brunette with a real passion for life, seeking male for happy times, dates, chats, romance and more. Pls call. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420175

**TARA** 22 tall slim but curvy with legs that go all the way up to heaven, WLTm guy. Contact me anytime. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414701

**FEMALE**, dark haired 5'10, curvy, likes reading, walking, cinema, seeks male 40-50 for lasting relationship. Text only to Mailbox no: 5077545

**SHARON** 32, attractive black single mum of one, very tactile and passionate, WLTm male 45-55yrs for fun meals. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419579

**MARIE**, 43, fun blue-eyed brunette, fit and active, seeks similar male to have a laugh with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419417

**KAREN** 50, widow, likes swimming, horse riding, keep fit, clay pigeon shooting, GSOH, N/S, non drinker, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415211

**CURRY**, farm girl at heart, 32, 5ft 10, single mum, caring, kind, shy like walks, cooking WLTm tactile male farmer for LTR. Text only to Mailbox no: 5067001

**FEMALE** medium build, blonde hair, 5ft 5yrs, seeks male, 50-58, GSOH, loving, caring and understanding. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415429

**WIDOW** 50, blonde hair, GSOH, 5ft 5yrs, slim, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415767

**MARIE**, 43, fun blue-eyed brunette, fit and active, seeks similar male to have a laugh with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419417

**FEMALE** 50's, 5ft 5yrs, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, seeks gent with GSOH, loving, caring and understanding. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415871

**BLUE** eyed female, blonde hair, slim, GSOH, loving, caring, understanding, seeking similar male, 55-55. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416989

**AMANDA**, 36, tall, slim, busty brunette seeks man, any age, any area, for discreet daytime fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418117

**CAROL** Ann, sensitive slim brunette very romantic seeks tall, handsome male for fun, friendship and lots of TLC. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419385

**KIRSTEN**, 36, attractive, blonde and very bored, seeking open-minded decent male for fun/friendship, 40-60yrs. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419383

**VAL** 41, pretty, cuddly, flirty, seeks similar fun loving male for an uncomplicated no strings relationship. Age/looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416601

**MID** naughty forties female looking fun, thrills and romance seeks tall, handsome male for fun, friendship and lots of TLC. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419383

**LINDA**, 47, brown-eyed blonde, caring, sensitive, n/a to area, needs a bit of love and affection? Then I'm your girl. Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418169

**FREYA** 24yr old single mum, looking for male for free time frolics, call me if you're interested, it could be fun! Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419851

**LISA** 38 slim attractive blonde, looking for a man who will appreciate a feminine, romantic, fun, romantic sensual woman with a mind of her own. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419839

**SARAH** 38, slim, nice looking, sensual, tactile, no ties, WLTm kind, loving male to enjoy affectionate relationship. Any age/looks. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419821

**PAT** 66, attractive, N/S, likes reading, nights out, seeks gent for friendship, days out and more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418277

**68YR** old widow, attractive, seeks sincere N/S male, likes reading, meals out and walks. West Midlands. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414773

**JULIA** 47, looking for genuine, reasonably attractive male friend, may lead to more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416965

**LADY** Penelope seeks her very own Parker (47-58) to go on a voyage of discovery and romance. Text only to Mailbox no: 4550237

**FEMALE** fun brunette, attractive, 26, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416287

**BLACK** lady seeks white male over 60, any location, for friendship and hopefully a lot more. Text only to Mailbox no: 4256384

**CHARLENE**, 24, petite curvy young blonde seeks similar cheeky, fun loving guy for lots of fun and loving. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419597

**JOANNA**, 36, petite, auburn haired female, lovely figure seeks loving older male for fun nights out and cosy nights in. Maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419595

**WAYNE**, 40, cheeky, good career, likes gym. Looking for a lady who likes stimulating conversation and times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419829

**DARREN**, 44, slim build, dark brown hair, green eyes, seeks genuine female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418089

**MALE**, 59, 5ft2, average build, looking for a genuine, WLTm male guy to share good wine, good conversation, flirting and fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421089

**ADVENTUROUS** 35yr old male, slim, dark hair, likes music, bike rides and photography, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417235

**GRAHAM**, 50s, 5ft10, blue eyes, very smart, OHAC, solvent, smoker, WLTm a very feminine, sensual, high heels lady, 36-52, for romantic evenings out and holidays. South Cheshire, Staffs, ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421103

**CARING** male, 55, N/S, medium build, likes meals out, music, cinema, sports, driving, seeks female, 40-60 for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 239148

**MALE** 63, N/S, honest, GSOH, car owner, seeks female, 55-70 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416977

**GENUINE** male, 58, OHAC, looking for fun lady for no strings fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417601

**PHIL** 57, OHAC, discreet, seeks no strings fun with younger female. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414991

**MALE** 45yrs old, self-employed motor trader/mechanic, medium build, green eyes, average looks. I am a nice genuine and honest person looking for similar lady to share a honest permanent relationship and happy times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418709

**MALE** 63, N/S, GSOH, genuine, caring, likes music, travel, meals out, casual drink, seeks female, 50-70 for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416997

**PHIL** 55, divorced, 5ft 10ins, slim, OHAC, seeks female, 18 plus for discreet adult fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401875

**WALSALL** male looking for lady for no strings adult fun on a regular basis, within 10 miles of Walsall is preferred but not essential, age/looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420873

**STEVE** 58 yrs, 6ft, average build, seeking woman for NSA mutual pleasure, marital status unimportant. Text only to mailbox: 5407071

**YOUNG** at heart lonely 55yr old male, 5ft 10, medium build, n/s, GSOH, loyal, looking for a female for adult fun time, possible LTR. Text only to mailbox: 5321154

**ATTRACTIVE** male, 54, seeks attractive female for daytime fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407915

**JOYCE**, affectionate sensitive widow, bit of a romantic, seeks loving male for lots of TLC. Looks unimportant, it's what's in the heart that matters. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419143

**DEBBIE**, 29, looking for mature professional fun guy, 40-50 to spend good times with. Call me, you have nothing to lose. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419075

**JULES**, sensitive tactile, curvy brunette, hopeless romantic, seeks tall, loving male for fun, friendship and possible LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419033

**VIRGINIA**, outgoing social female, 24, tall slim and attractive, looking for fun times, maybe more. Can accommodate/travel. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418845

**HEATHER**, well travelled solvent brunette looking to share a large glass of wine and whatever follows with affectionate man friend. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419031

**PAULINE**, 49yrs, very attractive, curvy divorcee, affectionate and fun, seeks laid back, sincere male for an uncomplicated, loving relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418925

**LADY** young at heart, nice eyes, seeks man 42-52 with good sense of humour. Text only to Mailbox no: 481572

**JAN** 35yr old blonde eyed blonde, outgoing, friendly, WLTm passionate guy to share good wine, good conversation, flirting and fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418609

## Single Men

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

**WAYNE**, 40, cheeky, good career, likes gym. Looking for a lady who likes stimulating conversation and times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419829

**DARREN**, 44, slim build, dark brown hair, green eyes, seeks genuine female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418089

**MALE**, 59, 5ft2, average build, looking for a genuine, WLTm male guy to share good wine, good conversation, flirting and fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421089

**ADVENTUROUS** 35yr old male, slim, dark hair, likes music, bike rides and photography, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417235

**GRAHAM**, 50s, 5ft10, blue eyes, very smart, OHAC, solvent, smoker, WLTm a very feminine, sensual, high heels lady, 36-52, for romantic evenings out and holidays. South Cheshire, Staffs, ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421103

**CARING** male, 55, N/S, medium build, likes meals out, music, cinema, sports, driving, seeks female, 40-60 for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 239148

**MALE** 63, N/S, honest, GSOH, car owner, seeks female, 55-70 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416977

**GENUINE** male, 58, OHAC, looking for fun lady for no strings fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417601

**PHIL** 57, OHAC, discreet, seeks no strings fun with younger female. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414991

**MALE** 45yrs old, self-employed motor trader/mechanic, medium build, green eyes, average looks. I am a nice genuine and honest person looking for similar lady to share a honest permanent relationship and happy times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418709

**MALE** 63, N/S, GSOH, genuine, caring, likes music, travel, meals out, casual drink, seeks female, 50-70 for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416997

**PHIL** 55, divorced, 5ft 10ins, slim, OHAC, seeks female, 18 plus for discreet adult fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401875

**WALSALL** male looking for lady for no strings adult fun on a regular basis, within 10 miles of Walsall is preferred but not essential, age/looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420873

**STEVE** 58 yrs, 6ft, average build, seeking woman for NSA mutual pleasure, marital status unimportant. Text only to mailbox: 5407071

**YOUNG** at heart lonely 55yr old male, 5ft 10, medium build, n/s, GSOH, loyal, looking for a female for adult fun time, possible LTR. Text only to mailbox: 5321154

**ATTRACTIVE** male, 54, seeks attractive female for daytime fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407915

**MARK**, 44, very interesting person, own business



# Clubman's grown up but is still fun to drive

By Ian Donaldson

## SAVE OVER £4,000

on 2016/65 Plate – delivery miles

## CIVIC's

### Civic 1.8 SE Plus 5dr



**FROM £16,499**

**SAVE OVER £4,000**

- 17" alloys
- front fog lights
- Honda CONNECT 7" touchscreen display with AM/FM/DAB tuner, internet radio, Aha® app integration and internet browsing
- 2 x USB/HDMI connection
- 6 speakers
- rear parking camera
- climate control dual auto a/c
- cruise control with speed limiter
- rain sensing wipers
- front and rear parking sensors

Diesel version also available – ask for details

### Civic 1.8 Sport



**FROM £16,499**

**SAVE £4,036**

- 17" sport alloys
- black roof lining
- privacy glass
- sports grille
- body coloured spoiler
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All cars come with the balance of 3 years warranty and AA cover, choice of colours. Pictures for illustration purposes only. These offers supersede all previous offers.

**MOST** descriptions of a new car start at the front and work rearward – this time we'll begin at the back.

Where, on this all-new MINI Clubman you'll find the same split rear doors of the outgoing model, designed to evoke Minis from an earlier age and leave a permanent block in the rear view mirror.

Then open those doors, discovering that pressurised struts help lighten the task and revealing a boot space that is very un-Mini indeed.

Bigger than the void you'll find in a Ford Focus, for instance (back seats up or down).

Move a little more forward still and you'll be sitting in a rear seat that's both comfy and comes with the sort of leg-room you most decidedly don't associate with anything with Mini in its name.

That's thanks to putting more distance between front and rear wheels than before, and more than you'll find in a four-door MINI Hatch. There is now enough room in the rear for a couple of tall men – and you'd never have dared say that before.

And now to the biggest change in this new Clubman – it's actually got four doors. Not three, like the edition before, which made do with a silly single rear door – and that on the 'wrong' side of the car for UK buyers, disgorging rear seat occupants into the road.

#### Profile

Now, step back and take a long at this newcomer in profile, where you find a car that's still very much a Mini but stretched like a piece of pasta until it is a mere hands-span shorter than, say, a Focus. And that is certainly not a small car.

You might think the stretch has added a gawky touch to the car as the price it has to pay for growing up. A turn at the wheel will discover if that's a deal worth the making.

From the driver's seat the sense of pure Mini-ness returns as you face a dashboard, complete with plate sized central dial that once held the speedo but these days acts as somewhere to put the sat nav, which comes as standard on every new Clubman.

It's a fine system and the built-in cost to the car's maker shows how it intends this version to head upmarket in this country, to the extent that we are not offered the less expensive versions available elsewhere.

Here, the Clubman range starts at £19,995 and tops out (for the moment) at a very un-mini like £27,410. And that is before you start to pile on the options.

#### Attractions

Most buyers add a £3,865 Chili pack, with heated front seats, bigger alloys, rear spoiler and aero kit and sports steering wheel among its attractions.

Go crazy with the box ticking (some do) and you can end up with something like the test car, whose options list groaned under the weight of add-ons to the tune of £10,480 worth of extras.

Not mini at all.

For the moment there is a choice of two petrol and two diesel engines with more powerful versions sure to come as the range settles down.

Big car options have trickled down to the extent you can order your Clubman with an eight speed automatic gearbox – and a fine thing it is too.

The test car's potent petrol motor provides plenty of pep, accompanied by the sort of refined roar that makes you smile.

So does the way the car tackles a typically pockmarked British road surface, banishing thoughts of old Minis hopping from bump to bump (even as the driver laughed at the sheer fun of it all).

There is still fun to be had with this new Clubman, even if it's a bit more grown up than before.

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## Retailers attend Vauxhall/Opel Group top 100 event

Family-run Vauxhall dealerships, Dudley Motor Company, Stourbridge Motor House, Halesowen Motor House and T Wall Garages were part of a 24-strong delegation of Vauxhall retailers selected to join 100 of the most successful dealers across Opel Europe at a congress held at its headquarters in Rüsselsheim, Germany.

Managing director, Mr Stuart Grieveson, said: "This is a great achievement and a proud moment. We have a strong workforce with an excellent work ethic, and I'm delighted that we have been nominated in the Top 100 dealers in Europe. Our dealerships have proved successful through everyone working as a team, so that each and every cus-

tomers gain the best possible service on each and every occasion. We would like to thank our many customers for their incredible loyalty and never forget that they have a choice."

The parent company, Worcester Carsales, was founded by Mr Derrick Grieveson in Worcester in 1953. Ten years later, in 1963, the first dealership moved across to a new site on Hylton Road, Worcester. In 1973, the founder's son, Stuart Grieveson, joined the family-owned company, and today, he is managing director.

Over the last 60 years, the family-run Worcester Carsales has seen three generations of the Grieveson family enjoy working for the firm, and to date, Mr Grieveson's grandchildren work within the group.

For more information about the Vauxhall range or any service requirements please contact:

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T Wall Vauxhall, High Street, Pensnett, Kingswinford DY6 8XB. Tel: 01384 288333 [www.twall.co.uk](http://www.twall.co.uk)

Stourbridge Motor House, High Street, Amblecote, Stourbridge DY8 4DG. Tel: 01384 447970 or visit [www.stourbridgemotorhouse.co.uk](http://www.stourbridgemotorhouse.co.uk)

Halesowen Motor House, Dudley Road, Halesowen B63 3NH. Tel: 0121 503 0001 [www.halesowenmotorhouse.co.uk](http://www.halesowenmotorhouse.co.uk)

Pictured: The new sports car that Opel will debut at the Geneva Motor show next week.

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>10/10 Mercedes E200 Blue-CY Sport CGI Estate</b><br>7 Seater, 52k, Black, Black Leather, Alloys, Air Con, CD, E/Windows<br><b>£13995 / £72 Per Week</b>                     | <b>13/13 Peugeot 107 1.0 Allure</b><br>14k, Black, *ZERO ROAD TAX* Alloys, Air Con, CD with Aux, E/Windows<br><b>£5495 / £28 Per Week</b>                                 |
| <b>06/06 Jaguar XJ Sovereign 2.7 TDI Diesel Automatic</b><br>60k, Silver, Alloys, Premium Cream Leather, Sat-Nav, Top Spec - Every Extra<br><b>£9995 / £51 Per Week</b>        | <b>10/10 Vauxhall Corsa 1.4i 16V (100) Exclusiv</b><br>5dr Automatic (AC) *ONLY 27400 miles* Silver, Air Con, CD, E/Windows<br><b>£5495 / £28 Per Week</b>                |
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| <b>10/10 Saab 9-3 Linear SE Cabriolet TID 1.9 Diesel</b><br>*ONE OWNER* Black, Cream Leather, Alloys, Air Con, CD, E/Hood, E/Windows<br><b>£7995 / £42 Per Week</b>            | <b>07/06 Vauxhall Vectra 3.0 V6 CDTi Elite Automatic</b><br>80k, Grey, Sat-Nav, Tan Leather, Alloys, Air Con, Heated Seats, CD, E/Windows<br><b>£3995 / £23 Per Week</b>  |
| <b>09/09 Mini Cooper 1.6 Convertible</b><br>35k, White with Black Hood, Alloys, CD, E/Windows, E/Hood<br><b>£7995 / £42 Per Week</b>   | <b>04/04 Mercedes C180K Avantgarde SE</b><br>4dr Automatic, 76k, Silver, Alloys, Half Leather, Air Con, CD, E/Windows<br><b>£3995 / £23 Per Week</b>                      |
| <b>09/08 Volkswagen Beetle 1.6 Sola Convertible</b><br>*TOP SPEC* 69k, Silver, Red Electric Hood, Red Leather, Heated Seats, Air Con, E/Windows<br><b>£6995 / £36 Per Week</b> | <b>04/04 Mercedes C220 CDI Diesel SE</b><br>3dr Automatic Coupe, 77k, Silver, Panoramic Roof, Alloys, Grey Leather, CD, Air-Con, E/Windows<br><b>£3995 / £23 Per Week</b> |
| <b>08/08 Jaguar X-Type 2.2D S Diesel</b><br>4dr Automatic, 59k, Blue, Alloys, Half Cream Leather, Air Con, CD, E/Windows<br><b>£6995 / £36 Per Week</b>                        | <b>08/08 Ford Mondeo 2.0 TDCi Diesel Edge</b><br>5dr [140] Automatic, 118k, Blue, Air Con, CD, E/Windows<br><b>£3695 / £20 Per Week</b>                                   |
| <b>06/06 Toyota Rav-4 XT4 4D 2.2 Diesel 4WD</b><br>5dr, 75k, Silver, Alloys, Air Con, CD, E/Windows, E/Sunroof<br><b>£6795 / £35 Per Week</b>                                  | <b>07/07 Citroen Xsara Picasso VTX 1.6 HDI Diesel</b><br>59k, Beige, Alloys, Air con, CD, E/Windows, Panoramic Sunroof<br><b>£3695 / £20 Per Week</b>                     |
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Finance example: 05/05 Nissan X-trail 2.2 dCi, Cash Price £3495, Deposit 300, Amount of credit £3195, Fixed interest rate 6.25% Flat rate, 11.8% Apr, 60 Payments of £69.90 (£16.13 per week) Total amount payable £4793.44 (Includes £150 Document fee and £150 Completion fee, Subject to status)

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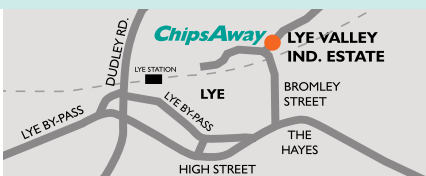
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## DRIVETIME



## Mazda RX-Vision named most beautiful concept

The Mazda RX-VISION has been awarded "Most Beautiful Concept Car of the Year" at the 31st Festival Automobile International. First revealed at last year's Tokyo Motor Show, Mazda's striking rotary-powered sports car concept wowed crowds at its global debut with its exquisitely proportioned dimensions and stunning lines.

Representing a 'vision' of the future that could only come from Mazda, RX-VISION expresses Mazda's determination to continue delivering con-

vention-defying technology, that exemplifies Mazda's challenger spirit.

A truly striking rendition of its KODO: Soul of Motion design philosophy, the smooth-flowing proportions scream performance while paying tribute to Mazda's rich heritage of front engine, rear-wheel drive sports cars. Indeed, the rotary powertrain's compactness makes characteristics like the low bonnet possible.

Nominated alongside the Bentley Exp10 Speed 6, Peugeot Fractal and Porsche Mission E at this year's Festival Automobile International, it was the Mazda RX-VISION that was named "Most Beautiful Concept Car of the Year". Mazda's international design chief, Ikuo Maeda accepted the award

Tuesday evening together with Kevin Rice, Mazda's European design director, Julien Montousse, his counterpart at Mazda North America, and Mazda designer Norihito Iwao.

This latest recognition is another honour for Mazda's global design division, which took home three prizes in September at the Automotive Brand Contest 2015 including the prestigious "Team of the Year" award.

The concept award goes to the vehicle that best embodies pure design creativity and emerging trends. It is one of four grand prizes at the annual event, with the winners chosen by a jury of experts and enthusiasts from the world of motorsports, architecture, fashion and design.



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Graham Hodson, left, and Mike Ball are calling time on their long partnership



Kick off – Mike Ball, back right, at Under 14s clash on the league's first weekend with MP Dennis Turner, players and officials

# Ready for final whistle – unsung heroes in a league of their own

**MIDLANDS football has thrown up some great double acts down the years.**

Dougan and Richards, Bull and Mutch, Robertson and Wile, Shaw and Withe have all grabbed the headlines for their deeds in the colours of Wolves, Albion and Villa.

And further down the footballing pyramid, there is a partnership that has helped bring the beautiful game to thousands of Black Country youngsters. Hodson and Ball may not be household names but they have blazed a successful trail at grassroots level.

Chairman Graham Hodson and vice-chairman Mike Ball are the men who brought the Bilston Youth Partnership League onto the local football landscape and few people can argue that it's not been a huge success.

## Confident

But all good things must come to an end and the duo are set to hang their boots up at the end of the current season.

The league will go on, and both are confident it will continue to prosper under fresh new leadership.

Hodson and Ball first mooted the idea of creating a league for Wolverhampton and the surrounding area early in 1997.

A few scrapes with Stourbridge League officials provided the straight-talking Hodson with the motivation to get things moving with Ball a willing partner.

"We used to run Springvale in Stourbridge League and we had a few run-ins with the league and didn't like some of the things they did," recalls 58-year-old Hodson.

"I thought we could do better, so we started our own league."

"It took about 18 months preparation to get it up and running and it was 1998 when we actually kicked off. And looking back, I don't think we have done too badly."

## SPORTING MEMORIES

By Nick Elwell

*"I thought we could do better, so we started our own league. Looking back, I don't think we have done too badly."*

Before the Bilston Partnership Youth Football League came into existence, Wolverhampton last boasted a junior league way back in 1980, when the Wolverhampton Youth Service League folded due to a lack of numbers.

Various attempts had been made to create a league but one by one they all fell by the wayside. Hodson and Ball were determined that wouldn't be the case.

"There was a lot of interest or perhaps that should be more curiosity rather than interest," continued Hodson.

"We had a meeting with the county FA and Earl Laird who was at Bilston College at the time – that was where the partnership came in.

"They were very supportive and once we got the structure we started advertising in the media.

"We called a meeting at the Springvale club and I think we had about 300 teams turn up. Everyone wanted to know how we were going to operate and what we would do differently.

"Out of those 300 teams that came to that meeting we had 67 teams sign up for the first season.

"But everyone one of those 67 teams wanted the league

to work, which was great for us." And while the duo felt the other leagues around the area were waiting for the concept to fall flat on its face, the Bilston League started to grow.

"Our bigger focus compared to the Stourbridge and Walsall leagues was about one man clubs, small teams," said 62-year-old former accountant Ball.

"Our focus was about being approachable and running it like a club rather than a league. We still try to do it that way.

"We had to do a business plan and the aim was that in five years we would have three divisions of 10 at each age group. And we near enough got there.

"We probably peaked 8-10 years in. We had around 250 teams then and it actually reached the point where we were saying it's got too big for us now."

## Determination

One of the league's biggest selling points was the determination to appoint a referee for every single game. And it's an achievement that they are rightly proud of.

"We promised to put a ref on every game and we still do that, we have maintained that," said Hodson. "That has been one of our biggest successes.

Discipline has always been high on the agenda and the league has endured a fallout along the way as a result.

"We have always been strong with discipline," added Ball.

"We have had a few fallouts because we have taken a stance and done things differently, but we have always done what we think was right."

Another success story are the numerous Charity Cup finals the league stages each season with the focus on giving all players the chance to lift some silverware.

"We have about 60-70 finals a year which sounds a stupid number," admits Hodson.

"But if you went to those finals you would see teams hav-

ing the time of their life, teams who would never get to a final in another league."

Ball takes up the thread, adding: "We group teams of a similar standard together for the various cups, it makes success accessible to all teams."

Off the pitch, the league can be especially proud of its fundraising down the years.

"We select nominated charities every year and we have donated about £35,000 in the last 18 years," said Hodson.

"We have refs' charity matches where they play the managers and myself and a local referee, Noel Perry, did a series of bike rides to raise funds.

"The first one was down to Wembley and on another occasion we cycled to the Millennium Stadium.

"We have also been to Norwich, Ipswich and Southampton. The last one took in Wrexham, Liverpool, Everton, Bolton, Wigan, the two Manchester clubs, Stockport, Chester, Stoke and back home.

"It was knacker! I'm glad I won't be doing that again."

But now as Hodson puts the bike clips away, the duo are happy to step down and reflect on a job well done.

"Over the last couple of years we talked about it and it feels like we need someone new with new ideas and a new direction," said Ball.

"We are confident the league will continue to prosper and go from strength to strength."

Hodson agrees and is quick to quell rumours surrounding the league's future.

"We are getting older and less tolerant and attitudes have changed," said Hodson.

"I think there is less honesty in the game, even at this level. Maybe we are a bit 'dinosaurish' as well.

"We have got a great committee and there are people willing to take on our roles.

"There were rumours that the league was going to fold but that's simply not the case. That won't happen."

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## Penalty wipes out Yeltz's good work

**Halesowen Town 1 Buxton 1**  
HALESOWEN looked set for their first home win since November until conceding a late penalty.

In the first of two meetings this week against mid-table Buxton, The Yeltz grabbed an 11th minute lead through an own goal when Buxton defender Ricky Ravenhill could only head George Forsyth's free-kick beyond his own 'keeper Mes Wright.

On-loan Kidderminster Harriers youngster Dan Sweeney made an impressive home debut and was unlucky not to add a second Halesowen goal, when his lob fell agonisingly wide.

Sweeney's spectacular 25-yard volley then cannoned off the Buxton bar mid-way through the second half.

### Saves

But Bucks also had plenty of chances with goalkeeper Dan Platt making a string of fine saves to deny Bradley Baraclough and Ashley Worfold before the interval, then keeping out Alastair Taylor's fierce shot early in the second half.

Halesowen's work was undone with 11 minutes remaining after Bradley Lewis pushed Ash Burbeary and then Burbeary thumped home from the spot.

The hosts were unable to restore the lead although Wright made a fine reaction save to tip the ball away, after a long free-kick from Aaron Griffiths sailed straight through the Buxton penalty area with five minutes remaining.

**Halesowen Town:** Platt; Gueyes (Connolly 67), Griffiths, Denny (c), Morrison, Lewis, Charlton, Bragoli, Anderson, Sweeney (Turner 80), Forsyth (Melvin 74), Subs Not Used; Parsons-Smith, Watson (GK).  
**Buxton:** Wright; J. Bembo-Leta, Green, Ravenhill, Harris, Young (c), Taylor, (Doran 74), Wiles, Baraclough, Worfold, Burbeary, Subs Not Used; Belezika, Grayson, F. Bembo-Leta, Ryan.  
**Referee:** Robbie Dudley; Attendance: 401

## Scott free to drag Stour back from an interval deficit

**Stourbridge 12 South Leicester 6**  
STOURBRIDGE beat South Leicester in a scrappy affair but had to rely on the kicking of outside-half Chris Scott to drag them back from a 0-6 half-time deficit.

A first half penalty and drop goal by visitors' outside-half Rickie Alely put them ahead, but after the break Stourbridge managed to put the visitors under pressure. Blane Howe was sin-binned with 15 minutes left and Scott slotted home the penalty.

**Stourbridge Lions 29 Stafford 5**  
THE Lions ran in four tries in victory at Stourton Park.

Scotty Langdon pounced for the first, converted from out wide by Harry Wainwright.

On half-time, a promising move led to George Tildesley scything through to score unopposed under the posts. Wainwright again converted.

Stafford drove over near the posts but the conversion was missed.

Lions re-asserted themselves and were rewarded by a second Tildesley try.

A Wainwright penalty was followed by a fourth, bonus point try from Dews, converted by Wainwright.

## It's a perfect ten as Clarke gets KO win

HALESOWEN'S Lennox Clarke made a statement to his rivals by demolishing Richard Horton inside a round at Walsall Town Hall.

'Dangerous' destroyed the 34-year-old challenger from Essex and knocked him down three times in what was supposed to be a competitive contest.

Not much of the allotted eight rounds were required to get the job done as the 24-year-old heavy-hitter sent out a message to his rivals in emphatic style, making it a perfect 10 out of 10 so far.

Co-promoter and former two weight world champion Ricky Hatton had four fighters on the

### Boxing

bill, staged in conjunction with Errol Johnson's Black Country Boxing. All the quartet had their hand raised, with late addition Sergey Rabchenko bringing a bit of glamour to the fight night.

The former European light middleweight champion made his ring return following a year out.

His opponent came out firing, but the gulf in class was obvious as Rabchenko sent Miguel Aguilar to the canvas four times in two rounds, before the Spaniard retired in the corner.

Meanwhile, Walsall super-lightweight 'Cool Hand' Luke Paddock tops the bill in the latest Black Country Boxing show in his hometown.

Fellow Walsall favourite Martin Gethin joins Paddock on the bill at the town hall on Saturday, March 19.

Midlands area light-middleweight champ Jason Welborn, of Rowley Regis, is in action as are the Bowater brothers – super featherweight Des and welterweight Sid – alongside West Bromwich middleweight Tom Stokes and Wolverhampton bantamweight Kyle Williams.

Tickets are £30 and £60 (VIP Ringside) on 0845 111 2900.

# HALES HOLD ON TO A VICTORY

**Old Halesonians 10 Birmingham Solihull 8**  
THERE was a big crowd to watch a much anticipated return fixture against local rivals Bees following a fractious encounter earlier in the season.

Bees brought a large crowd as they have returned to winning ways in recent weeks but Hales had prepared well under the guidance of coaches Ben Hughes and Ben Barkley.

Hales were well fired up with the return of Tom Jordan, Luke Smith and Chris Hooper from injuries.

On seven minutes the home side's Dave Hadkiss fed Oli Rayner who floated the pass to Ben Barkley at centre. Joe Oxford was let loose on the wing and with two defenders clinging to him, crossed for a try wide out. Rayner converted.

Bees started to make some headway after 20 minutes but the determined home defence led by the evergreen Jordan frustrated them. Bees were again under pressure and were penalised, Rayner converting for a 10-0 lead at half time.

The second half again saw brief glimpses of Hales potential for fast running rugby but it was Bees who took control of possession. A crucial mistake on 56 minutes saw Bees gain possession, then a try and conversion.

The period leading up to the 70th minute saw waves of attack from Bees, continually repelled with brilliant tackling led by centre Carl Robinson. But the home side were under pressure and this was hindered by both Loz Breese and Leach leaving the field with yellow cards reducing Hales to 13 men.

Forward pressure saw Hales penalised in the scrum which was converted on 71 minutes to pull the score back to 10-8 and the remaining ten minutes saw unstinting forward pressure by Bees. Hales to a man, 13 of them, tackled, rucked and mauled every Bees attack despite the difference in numbers, retained possession and drove every ball through the forwards with back row Max Macfarlane doing more than his fair share.

In the last minute, Bees chipped over the defence and seemed certain to score in the corner until Smith sprinted from his opposite wing to intercept the ball into touch.

This Saturday Hales firsts travel to rivals Bromsgrove, 2.15pm.

## Revenge mission accomplished



Rio ready – Jordanne Whiley on her way to win at Bolton Indoor Wheelchair Tennis Tournament

US Open champion Jordanne Whiley marked 200 days to go until the start of the Rio 2016 Paralympics by clinching her first women's singles title of the season at the Bolton Indoor Wheelchair Tennis Tournament at the weekend.

World No 4 and top seed Whiley beat three fellow world top 10 ranked players on her way to this year's final.

Her performances included straight sets wins over Germany's Katharina Kruger and Dutchwoman Diede de Groot.

The Halesowen star then came from 4-2 down in the third set in the final, dominating the final set tie-break to beat Dutch second

seed and world No 6 Marjolein Buis 2-6, 6-0, 7-6 (2).

"It was really important for me this week because the last two times I've played Diede and Marjolein I've lost, so I was out for revenge a little bit. I wanted to prove to myself that I was good enough to challenge them this time," said Whiley after clinching one of three titles in Bolton for players on the Tennis Foundation's Wheelchair Tennis World Class Programme.

"In the first set of the final I felt I tried to go for too much too soon and in the second I just picked my spaces. I got a bit tight and nervous in the final set, but I'm still very happy that I pulled through and won."

## Glassboys back on track in the league

**Stourbridge 2, Mickleover Sports 1**  
STOURBRIDGE shook off the dismay of their FA Trophy exit by getting their Evo-Stik Northern Premier League play-off prospects back on track with a hard-fought win over Mickleover.

Glassboys boss Gary Hackett was forced into a string of changes with former Halesowen Town skipper Joe Hull coming in at central-half for his debut while Drew Canavan was drafted onto the right flank for suspended Matt Dodd.

Mickleover, who arrived at Amblecote hovering just above the drop zone, were quicker out of the blocks and should have scored within four minutes when Jake Green was put clean through, but could only fire straight at 'keeper Matthew Gould. Then Gould came to the rescue again on 13 minutes with a fabulous flying save to push John McGrath's free-kick round the post.

Stourbridge took the lead on 16 minutes when full-back Kristian Green stole in at the near post and delivered a deft glancing header to send Sean Geddes' corner into the net. Mickleover levelled three minutes later when Nico Degriolamo bundled home in a crowded goal-mouth. Stour were handed a huge slice of luck on 38 minutes when McGrath was judged to have handled the ball. Former Walsall marksman Karl Hawley smashed home the resulting penalty for his 25rd goal of the season.

The second half saw Stourbridge create several chances thwarted by Ross Atkins. Stourbridge should have sewn the game up three minutes from time when Hawley took the ball past the advancing Atkins but dithered long enough for defender Jack Bitherhead to get back.

Glassboys followed up with a 3-2 win at Sutton Coldfield on Tuesday to go back into the play-offs. Karl Hawley (2) and Chris Lay were on target.

## Adams scores DK's try of the season

**DK 24 Crewe & Nantwich 26**  
AFTER eight minutes DK lit up Heathbrook with possibly the try of the season so far from Nic Adams. Duncan Tompkins added the extras.

The good work was cancelled out as C&N full-back Toby Ward scored a try.

A Tompkins penalty put DK 10-5 in front, then a Luke Greenwood try was converted by Tompkins again.

It was 17-8 at half-time as Ward kicked a penalty, and the visitors plundered two second half tries to take the lead. That was extended by two Ward penalties before an Aaron Hudson try, converted by Tompkins reduced the arrears.

★★★ The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketter, Telford, Thursday, February 25, 2016

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